

# VISUAL STUDIES WORK SHOP

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## **VISUAL STUDIES WORKSHOP HOSTS GALA EVENT**

***Fundraiser is Refocus: Celebrating Visual Studies Workshop at King Street, October 4***



*Artwork available as part of the **Refocus: Celebrating Visual Studies Workshop at King Street** silent auction. **Untitled (American Flag Bra)** by Joan Lyons, 1974, 11×14 inches, offset lithograph.*

Rochester, NY (August 18, 2025)—Visual Studies Workshop (VSW) announces **Refocus: Celebrating Visual Studies Workshop at King Street**, a fundraising event hosted at the organization's new location at 36 King Street on October 4, 2025.

The evening event will celebrate VSW in the organization's dynamic new space in the Susan B. Anthony neighborhood. Presented in open house style, this gala event will include delicious light bites by Susan Plunkett's Fabulous Foods, music featuring Ian Downey on cello, an open bar with drinks by Cheshire, and the opportunity to explore the new ***Diasporas are the Landscape*** exhibition and VSW's new location. The evening will feature a reimagined silent and live auction experience with VSW-exclusive items including a portfolio of rare Marilyn Monroe gelatin silver prints by Philippe Halsman; NASA images captured during the Apollo missions of 1969–71; a 1974 Joan Lyons lithograph of an American flag bra from *Wonder Woman*; a Robert Rauschenberg-designed poster; and an evening at More Fire Glass Studio for 20 people. The

live auction will include other fun collectables such as rare whisky, wine and sneakers. Attire is creative casual.

“For more than 50 years, Visual Studies Workshop has supported boundary-pushing experimental photographers, filmmakers and media artists – their research, creativity, development, and connection with audiences. This work is more essential and important than ever. We invite all who care about the visual and media arts in Rochester and beyond to join us to celebrate the next exciting chapter of VSW,” shares VSW Executive Director Jessica Johnston.

## Event Details

*Refocus: Celebrating Visual Studies Workshop* Fundraiser Event

Saturday, October 4, 2025 6-9pm

Sponsorships available: \$250 – \$5,000. Individual tickets available for \$100.

At Visual Studies Workshop, 36 King Street, Rochester NY 14608

Tickets & Sponsorships: [vsw.org/refocus/](https://vsw.org/refocus/)

The ***Diasporas are the Landscape*** exhibition will be on view at VSW September 25 to December 13, 2025. Featuring the work of contemporary artists Samantha Box, Claudia Claremi, and Alida Rodrigues, the exhibition presents a compelling exploration of diasporic identity through photography, film, and installation. Drawing on diverse cultural, linguistic, and geographic perspectives, *Diasporas are the Landscape* examines how real, imagined, and symbolic representations of tropical flora and fauna serve as metaphors for how identity and traditions persist across time and borders. *Diasporas are the Landscape* is curated by Hernease Davis, Assistant Curator at Visual Studies Workshop. For more information, visit [vsw.org/exhibition/diasporas-are-the-landscape](https://vsw.org/exhibition/diasporas-are-the-landscape).

**About Visual Studies Workshop:** Visual Studies Workshop nurtures experimental and expansive approaches to photography and media arts, and builds community among artists and the public through exhibitions, publications and residencies. VSW was founded in 1969 in Rochester, NY by photographer, educator and curator Nathan Lyons (1930–2016), and became one of the earliest independent, not-for-profit, artist-run spaces in the country. More than 50 years later, the organization’s mission is reflected in its core programs: VSW Exhibitions and Salon events, Project Space Artist Residencies, and VSW Press. In support of VSW programs, the organization holds substantial photography and moving image research collections and an art library for artists, critics and the general public to explore, research and reuse. [vsw.org](https://vsw.org)

VSW programs are currently supported by The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the New York State Legislature, The William and Sheila Konar Foundation, Joy of Giving Something, Monroe County NY, The Phillip and Edith Leonian Foundation, and all our members and individual supporters.

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