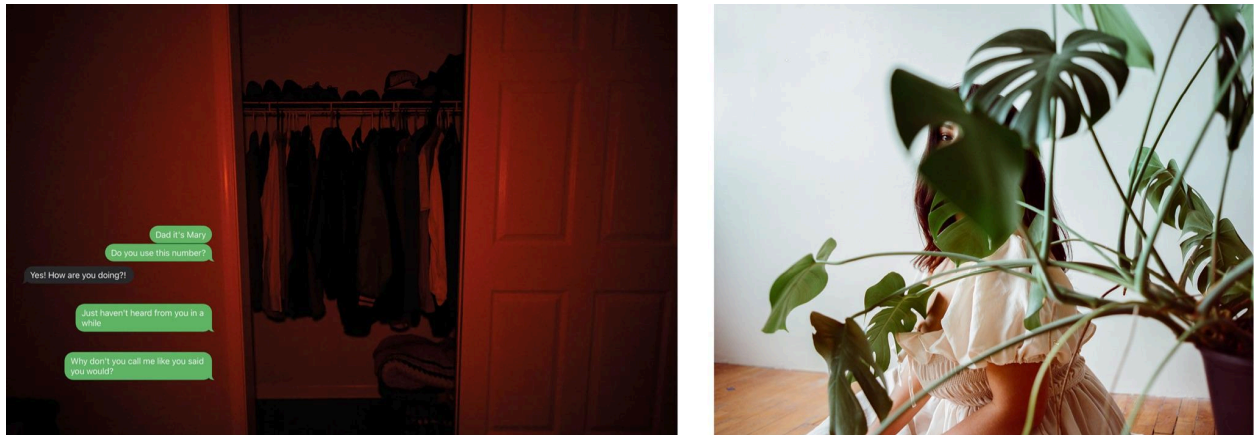


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**VISUAL STUDIES WORKSHOP ANNOUNCES
REGIONAL WORKSPACE RESIDENCY ARTISTS: MARYEL PRYCE & LOUIS RESSEL**



*Photo captions: Left: Photo by Maryel Pryce, from the series *At Least I Am Living Now*.
Right: Photo by Louis Ressel, *Untitled**

Rochester, NY (May 14, 2026) **Visual Studies Workshop** (VSW) announces two Rochester-area photographers who have been selected for their new **Regional Workspace Residency** program: **Maryel Pryce** and **Louis Ressel**. This residency program supports emerging photographers based in the Rochester, NY region, to help them expand their photographic practice and to provide professional development opportunities.

Maryel Pryce, a recent Rochester Institute of Technology graduate, will be in residence at VSW June 2026; her photography work reflects curiosity about place, memory, and the ways in which lived experiences shape identity over time. Louis Ressel, an emerging artist and commercial photographer, will be in residence in Fall 2026; they will create a body of work that focuses on a personal process of reconciliation with their birthplace of Guatemala. A presentation of work will be open to the public; dates to be announced.

“Visual Studies Workshop created this residency to better serve emerging photo artists in our local community. We are excited to work with Maryel Pryce and Louis Ressel to develop their promising projects. We are also thankful to all the artist applicants for the chance to review such competitive proposals. The application process for this program affirmed the depth of talented

emerging photographers in the Greater Rochester region,” shared **Hernease Davis, VSW Assistant Curator Education and Public Programs.**

Visual Studies Workshop is one of the earliest independent, not-for-profit, artist-run spaces in the United States. Founded in 1969, VSW is a Rochester-based arts organization dedicated to experimental and expansive approaches to photography and media arts. This new Regional Workspace Residency is offered in addition to VSW's [Project Space Residency program](#), which is open to national and international artists.

Photographers selected for this 3-month Regional Workspace Residency will develop detailed project and budget plans, professional development goals (i.e. crafting an artist statement/CV, website or portfolio development, portfolio review preparation). Selected artists will be provided with a \$1,000 stipend for supplies and \$1,000 for travel. Residents will be given access to the VSW workroom and darkroom and time with VSW staff dedicated to helping complete professional development goals and feedback on their photographic project.

The program's inaugural Regional Resident was **Jackie McGriff**. Jackie proposed and completed a portraiture project focusing on the Black Alternative Community. Jackie developed her workspace residency project with consultation from **VSW Assistant Curator and Project Space Residency Manager, Hernease Davis**. Jackie's residency culminated with an experimental studio installation of the new portrait series and a public artist presentation about her project process. More information about Jackie McGriff and her project are available on her [Regional Workspace Resident page](#).

The Regional Workspace Residency is supported by The Phillip and Edith Leonian Foundation.

Artist Bios

Maryel Pryce is an emerging visual storyteller from Lewiston, New York, a small town minutes from Niagara Falls. She graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2026, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photojournalism. In addition to her studies, she was involved with the National Press Photographers Association student chapter at RIT, balancing two roles as president and public relations chair. Maryel is interested in the intersection between history and the present, and how the two can learn from each other. Her work reflects curiosity about place, memory, and the ways in which lived experiences shape identity over time.

Louis Ressel is an emerging artist and works as a commercial photographer with local Rochester businesses and festivals such as CineStill Film, *City Magazine* and the Rochester Cocktail Revival. As a Guatemalan adoptee raised in Rochester, Louis will use their time in residency to create a body of work that focuses on their personal process of reconciliation with their birthplace, Guatemala.

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

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, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and all our members and individual supporters.

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