

CEPA GALLERY

CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY & VISUAL ARTS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CEPA Gallery Exhibits Artist Joe Ziolkowski
Quester of Light Exhibition opens: August 18, 2023

Buffalo, NY, July 6, 2023 - [The Center for Exploratory & Perceptual Arts](https://www.cepagallery.org) (CEPA Gallery) will be hosting *Quester of Light*, an exhibition by Joe Ziolkowski, from August 18th-September 22nd. There will be an opening reception on August 18th from 5-8 pm. The show is taking place in the historic Market Arcade Building located at 617 Main St in Buffalo, NY. Joe Ziolkowski was one of the selected winners from the CEPA Gallery Members' Exhibition (2022). As part of the exhibition, the artist will be installing a walk in camera obscura in CEPA's Flux Gallery.



20220520-B *Six Minute Self-Portrait In The Midst Of Chaos During A Time Of An Unprecedented Global Pandemic*, Makanda, IL

“Quester of Light: Behold the accumulation of a single soul; a life lived in intensity and torrent. A dense mountainous cloud shaped from desire and obsession, piling up, engulfing its originator, and sprawling out across the horizon; the overwhelming drive to create, lest one disappear. It is to awaken in the dead of night in a cold sweat, with an abstract yearning. A pull to compulsively document, preserve, protect, and project out into the nebulous future. To shout from the rooftop: my life happened. The people I loved, the things I have suffered, the wonders I have seen, hold significance; they existed. Not merely a blink in eternity, a singular flake in a gust of snow, or tears awash in the rain. Somewhere beyond the intellectual, there is a primal impulsive squall, dictated and directed by desire, to compile. Defying logic, we record light in past moments that no longer exist nor will again.

A self-portrait is an unparalleled act of vulnerability. It is an act of sifting through the pain of existence, but at the same time reaching out a hand for human connection. Self-portraiture is a conscious exercise in existentialism; it can be likened to a literary work penned in the first-person. Through the act of self-portraiture, one casts oneself as both protagonist and antagonist in a crafted visual diary.

The concept of “control” is essential to self-portraiture. We choose what to draw into the light, and which aspects of ourselves to keep in shadow. We seize control of the space and the decisive moment of capture. No other soul can anticipate your thoughts as you can, and this primacy leaves no chance of misunderstanding, or conflicting vision.

The photographer becomes a representational figure within their own images, utilizing personal signifiers within the realms of gender, culture, race, and a myriad of other formative categories, to propel and direct intellectual discourse. We present that which we want others to embrace or confront. While on this quest, we seek enlightenment and truth. Consciously, we document and shape our inner and outer selves, meditating on purpose, community, and our limited time on Earth.”

Located in Buffalo's historic Market Arcade Complex, CEPA Gallery is a contemporary photography and visual arts center with impact in both local and national communities. With three galleries of changing exhibits and events, multimedia public art installations, arts education programs, and an open-access darkroom and digital photo lab, CEPA creates a vibrant presence in the heart of downtown Buffalo.

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