

Mariah Karson

National Veterans Art Museum

AMERICAN LEGION

PRESS RELEASE

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Artist Book Talk and Veteran Mixer

Thursday, September 28 from 6pm -9pm
NVAM - 4041 N Milwaukee, Chicago, IL

PRIME: Filter Photo Festival

hosted by Fogelson Studio

1821 W Hubbard, Suite 208, Chicago, IL
show runs September 21 - October 14, 2017

CHICAGO, IL 9/24/17: National Veterans Art Museum is proud to present *AMERICAN LEGION*, a documentary photography series by Mariah Karson. A public book talk and artist reception will be held on Thursday, September 28 from 6-9pm.

The Artist Talk begins at 7:15pm and includes NVAM Development Associate and Tattler Post 973 Commander Brent M. Webb. Mariah and Brent will discuss the similarities and contrast between urban and the, suburban, and rural community posts that are documented in Mariah's book, *AMERICAN LEGION*. The talk will explore questions surrounding the two year documentary project from a young Legionnaire's perspective and will provide insight into the modern day American Legion. This event is open to the public, veterans and Legion members are highly encouraged to attend. For more information or to order a book, visit <http://www.mariahkarson.com/americanlegion>

Five Photos from *AMERICAN LEGION* will also be shown at Filter Photo Festival's exhibition, *PRIME*. Juror Kat

Kiernan chose five artists for an installation at Fogelson Studio: Kevin Lyle, Susan Keiser, Mariah Karson, Rachel Jump, Virgil DiBiase. Exhibition Dates: September 21 - October 14, 2017, gallery hours Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm or by appointment.

Mariah Karson's *AMERICAN LEGION* documents the photographer's travels to four American Legion posts in towns with populations under 1,000 to photograph and interview Legionnaires. Between 2014-2016, Karson witnessed and explored the lives of Legion members and the impact veterans and posts have on small communities. The project has been compiled into a 252 page hardcover book and gallery exhibition.

Karson's photographs and hardcover book capture the faces and firsthand accounts of veterans through military experiences in both war-times and beyond. An example of true Americanism in a diminishing era of organized participation, Karson spent countless hours with the veterans as she was welcomed into the various communities she documented. As veteran population diminishes throughout the years, Karson's accountability to showcase unique veteran experiences reminds the reader why service members are so highly regarded and valued in such small communities. Her photographic work captures the daily lives of these veterans and how the cherished military service of years past is still able to flow throughout the fabric of the present community.

AMERICAN LEGION was partially funded by an Individual Artist Grant from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, featured in *Light Leaked America* and *Constructing Narrative*, a finalist for Photolucida 2016 & 2017, and was awarded Best of ASMP 2015 .

Mariah Karson (b. 1979) is a Chicago-based artist and freelance photographer. She studied photography and printmaking at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and her work has been published internationally. Specializing in editorial and studio portraiture, Mariah strives to capture real people with honesty and clarity and provide memorable images that tell compelling stories.



Fifth of July - Cody, NE, 2015
archival pigment print, ed. of 7 (24 x 36 in)