

Firecat Projects

PRESS RELEASE

For press or inquiries please contact
Mariah Karson at (773)470-8571
mariahkarson@gmail.com
or
Stan Klein at (207)249-9486
firecatprojects@gmail.com

Mariah Karson AMERICAN LEGION

Book Release and Opening Reception

Friday, July 28 from 7pm -10pm
Show runs July 28 - August 18, 2017

Artist Talk & Mixer

sponsored by ASMP Chicago/Midwest at Firecat Projects
Wednesday August 9, 2017 6:30pm-9:30pm
Talk at 7:15pm.

CHICAGO, IL 6/27/17: Firecat Projects is proud to present AMERICAN LEGION, a photographic exhibition of recent documentary work by Mariah Karson. A public book release and artist reception will be held on Friday, July 28, 2017 from 7-10pm. The exhibition will be on view until August 18, 2017.

AMERICAN LEGION documents Karson's travels to photograph and interview Legionnaires at four American Legion posts in towns with populations under 1,000. 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 that will also be on display at Firecat Projects.

Karson's photographs and book capture the faces and firsthand accounts of veterans through military experiences, both in wartime and beyond.

An example of true Americanism in a diminishing era of organized participation, the project involved spending countless hours with the veterans as she was welcomed into the various communities she documented. As the U.S. veteran population decreases, Karson's showcasing of 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, and was awarded Best of ASMP 2015.

During the exhibition at Firecat Projects, American Legion Auxiliary poppies will be available with donation - poppies will be available, with donations benefiting Unit 319 in Cody, NE. The artist reception and book release is open to all veterans and members of the public. This Firecat Projects exhibition is generously sponsored by Douglas Sohn, and beverages are provided by Temperance Beer Co. and Red and White Wines, Chicago. For more information or to pre-order the book, visit <http://www.mariahkarson.com/americanlegion>

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)



Firecat Projects
2124 N. Damen Ave. Chicago IL 60647

FirecatProjects@gmail.com • 207.249.9486
Exhibition generously sponsored by Douglas Sohn

Facebook event page:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/843691925785457/>