

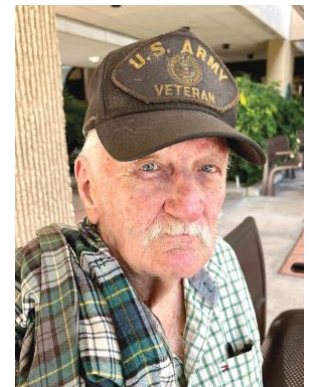
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USF Contemporary Art Museum presents
BREAKING BARRIERS 2024

Free Online Cellphone Photography Workshops for Military Veterans
July 12 – August 16, 2024 (Registration due by June 25)

(TAMPA, FL – May 13, 2024) This summer, the USF Contemporary Art Museum, part of the Institute for Research in Art in the College of the Arts, will offer **Breaking Barriers 2024**, an intensive six-week cellphone photography workshop series for military veterans and their families (18 years or older). *Breaking Barriers* is an initiative to expand access to the arts for military personnel, veterans, and their families. *Breaking Barriers* will give veterans the opportunity to have a voice through art making, and interface and integrate with both the local civilian and larger veteran communities. **Breaking Barriers 2024** is free to veterans and their families. **Breaking Barriers 2024** offers two online workshop options, a beginning and an advanced, both led by artist and photographer Christian Cortes.



Derek Hopkins, *I Can Still Be of Service*, 2023. From *Breaking Barriers 2023*.

WORKSHOP DATES: Fridays, July 12 – August 16, 2024

WORKSHOP TIMES + DETAILS: (select one)

BEGINNING (8am–12pm): DRESSING THE TABLE - A BRIEF LOOK INTO STILL LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

Join photographer Christian Cortes for a series of online cellphone photography workshops. During this workshop participants will learn photography fundamentals to successfully create still life photographs that tell strong stories. The workshop will explore the importance of still life photography in history and how participants can use symbolism to convey concepts and other important issues. Participants will learn the principles of lighting, composition, and color, and how to use tools and techniques to elevate the quality of their photographs to achieve the best possible image. To amplify thinking and seeing, participants will be exposed to contemporary artists such as Damien Hirst and Yayoi Kusama who use objects and are renowned for their provocative artwork.

No previous photography experience required.

Required Equipment: Cellphone with camera and iOS or Android operating systems.

Optional equipment: A cellphone tripod or device that will serve as a stand and stabilizer is highly recommended.

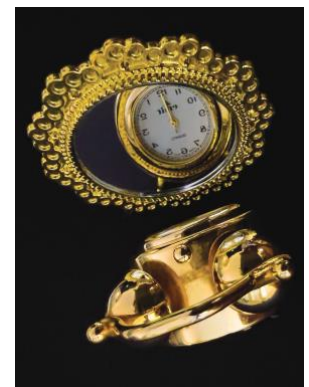
ADVANCED (1–5pm): BRINGING OBJECTS TO LIFE - EXAMINING OUR FASCINATION WITH THE OBJECT

Join artist and photographer Christian Cortes for this advanced online series of photography workshops. The advanced workshop will explore the relationship between objects and how they are used to create well-composed photographs with striking narratives. Throughout history, objects have been used to represent morality, social standing, and identity. Participants will explore the conceptual potential of the still life and review photography fundamentals and good post-production practices. The workshop will focus on advanced studio skills such as lighting, composition, and visual storytelling. Participants will be exposed to contemporary art references and participate in critique sessions that will enhance the workshop experience and artwork created.

Prerequisite for Advanced: *Breaking Barriers* Beginning Workshop or Equivalent Photography Experience.

Required Equipment: Cellphone with camera and iOS or Android operating systems.

Optional equipment: A cellphone tripod or device that will serve as a stand and stabilizer is highly recommended.



Agustin Collazo Jr., *Reflections in Time*, 2022. From *Breaking Barriers 2022*.

Each *Breaking Barriers* workshop series concludes with a personal project, portfolio review, and an exclusive Visual Thinking Strategies museum session. A curated selection of each participant's works will be exhibited at CAM according to best practices and on the USFCAM *Breaking Barriers* website. A digital catalog will be published and available for print-on-demand.

Must register by June 25 at 5pm! Please email Amy at amyallison@usf.edu to register, or for more information. Visit the <https://linktr.ee/irausf> for all the latest.



Mikko Maki, *Commune*, 2023. From *Breaking Barriers* 2023.

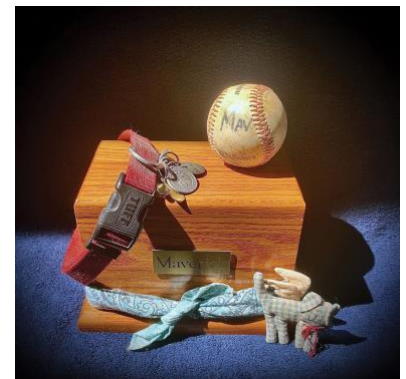
INSTRUCTOR'S BIO: Christian Cortes was born on the island of Puerto Rico. After serving in the military, Christian pursued an art practice and earned a BA in Photography followed by a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of South Florida in 2019. Christian creates photographs, sculptures, and small paintings. "As a queer and brown artist, I often question how my presence disturbs my surrounding environments. I've been traveling across the country for three years, working on the go and living in an RV. My current practice deals with interactions and encounters while on the road, and with the people and places that are disrupted by me [who I am and what I represent]. In this Americana of blue jeans, tailgates, and a camping-style environment, my presence is more often than not questioned. It invites interactions that spark conversations about race, culture, and the need to belong."

ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR'S BIO: Kristen Roles completed their MFA from the University of New Mexico in 2018 and teaches photography courses at the University of South Carolina, the University of South Florida, and the University of Tampa. Through renegotiative gestures wherein materiality is a scrim between protection and access, their artist practice grapples with the questions of legibility and tenderness in creating from loss. Through the subjectivities of stewardship, she hopes to become a prism for another's archive and memory. She has been in residence with the CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SUBSTRUCTURED LOSS for applied grief and bereavement research (London) and the School of Making Thinking (NY) to explore texts somatically and collaboratively. In 2021, she co-curated an exhibition, *Bodies for Scale (This Has Happened Many Times Before)*, at Goodyear Arts in NC. www.kristenroles.com

ACCESSIBILITY: The University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum (USFCAM) strives to make all programming accessible to visitors with disabilities. Please email Amy Allison at amyallison@usf.edu for accessibility questions or to request accommodations.

ABOUT USF CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM: USF Contemporary Art Museum (USFCAM) organizes and presents significant and investigative exhibitions of contemporary art from Florida, the United States and around the world. Serving as a teaching laboratory, USFCAM's curatorial and socially engaged initiatives and educational programs are designed to present the students, faculty, and community with current issues of contemporary art practice, and to explore the role of the arts in society. USFCAM publishes relevant catalogues, presents critically recognized traveling exhibitions and commissions new projects by national and international artists. USFCAM maintains the university's art collection, comprising more than 5000 contemporary art works.

CAM.USF.EDU.



RaeAnne Swanson, *Memories of My Maverick*, 2021. From *Breaking Barriers* 2022.

Breaking Barriers 2024 is a project by USFCAM in collaboration with the USF School of Art & Art History, with support from the USF Office of Veterans Success, Community Arts Impact Grant of the Hillsborough Arts Council, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, Love IV Lawrence, USFCAM ACE (Art for Community Engagement) Fund Patrons, and the Florida Department of State, Florida Arts & Culture.

