

**FOTOFOCUS  
PRESENTS  
LENS  
MIX**

**CONVERSATION WITH  
LAURIE  
SIMMONS &  
NAOMI FRY  
THURSDAY  
DEC 10, 2020, 6PM**

## **Lens Mix 3:**

### **Laurie Simmons and Naomi Fry**

**Thursday, December 10, 2020, 6pm EST**

Join acclaimed artist, photographer, and filmmaker **Laurie Simmons** and *The New Yorker* writer **Naomi Fry** for an hour-long Zoom conversation moderated by FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore. As pop culture evolves beyond television, film, and advertising into TikTok, online video gaming, and other digital platforms, social structures and gender identity are dramatically changing. Laurie Simmons and Naomi Fry will share their thoughts on—and enthusiasm for—life on the new media frontier and how it relates to their work.

Laurie Simmons is an internationally recognized artist. Since the 1970s, Simmons has staged scenes for her camera with dolls, ventriloquist dummies, mannequins and people, to create images with intensely psychological subtexts. The nonlinear narratives she creates echo memories and dreams. By the early 1980s, Simmons was at the forefront of a new generation of artists, predominantly women, whose use of photography began a new dialogue in contemporary art. Her work is part of the permanent collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art and The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (all New York); the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles; the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington DC; the Hara Museum in Tokyo; and the Stedelijk Museum of Modern Art in Amsterdam, among others. In 2006 she produced and directed her first film *The Music of Regret*, starring Meryl Streep, Adam Guettel and the Alvin Ailey II Dancers. The film

premiered at The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Her narrative feature film *MY ART* premiered at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival and the Tribeca International Film Festival in 2017.

Naomi Fry is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, where she writes about popular culture, books, and art.

## **REGISTER FOR FREE HERE**



*Laurie Simmons by Matthew Monteith. Naomi Fry by Ohad Meromi.*

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## **ABOUT LENS MIX**

**Lens Mix** is a monthly virtual conversation series presented by FotoFocus connecting speakers from different fields to comment on film, photography, and lens-based art. Created in celebration of FotoFocus's tenth anniversary, the free series moderated by **FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore** invites speakers to explore each others' artistic practice and projects through intimate discussions. To stay up-to-date on speakers and upcoming conversations, visit [fotofocus.org](http://fotofocus.org).

## **ABOUT FOTOFOCUS**

FotoFocus is a Cincinnati-based nonprofit arts organization that champions photography and lens-based art through exhibitions and public programming. Since 2010, the organization has engaged art and educational institutions throughout the region to support and expand the cultural dialogue around the medium that has come to define our time.

With an emphasis on intellectually and academically rigorous programs, the organization provides uniquely enriching access to lens-based art, film, and practices inspired by photography. FotoFocus has collaborated with hundreds of organizations, curators, academics, and artists to present more than 700 exhibitions and programs, having contributed funding for the majority. The organization has brought hundreds of internationally-renowned photographers to the Greater Cincinnati region.

Signature programming includes: **FotoFocus Biennial**, which had a record-breaking 207,000 visitors in 2018 and has presented exhibitions of work by both historic and contemporary artists such as Berenice Abbott, Eugène Atget, Roe Ethridge, Zanele Muholi, Karl Blossfeldt, Francis Bruguière, Thomas Ruff, and Akram Zaatari in Cincinnati; the **FotoFocus Symposium**, which has contributed significant dialogue and insight to culturally relevant topics including the controversial Mapplethorpe exhibition; the **FotoFocus Lecture and Visiting Artist Series**, which has brought internationally renowned artists, such as Zoe Leonard and William Wegman, to Cincinnati; and the **FotoFocus Film Program**, created to enrich the region's cinematic landscape.

In April 2020, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, FotoFocus pledged part of its 2020 Biennial budget to financially support more than 100 Participating Venues and Partners in the region's art community through FotoFocus Emergency Art Grants.

## CONNECT

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