

Trumbull Art Gallery

TAG's Photo Invitational

Exhibition Dates: June 13 - July 17, 2026

Opening Reception June 13, 2026

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Photographers

Jeff Beede of Black Monday Photography

Sarah Bokone

Kevin Cunningham

William D. Lewis

Chuck Mintz

Richard States

Photographer Biographies

Jeff Beede Biography

Jeff Beede is a lifelong Youngstown resident whose photographic journey began 52 years ago when he received his first film camera at the age of thirteen. He later formalized his creative background as an art student at Youngstown State University (YSU) from 1979 to 1984.

Beede has always gravitated toward architectural photography, focusing strictly on the geometry and presence of structures while intentionally excluding people and vehicles, which he finds distracting. Characterized as bleak and minimalistic, his photography—particularly his black-and-white imagery—often evokes quiet feelings of loneliness, sadness, and despair.

Driven by a desire to document transient places and structures that may not stand forever, Beede is drawn to larger-than-life, inanimate subjects. His portfolio highlights trains, water towers, bridges, and the industrial ruins left behind by the Mahoning Valley's rich steel-producing history.



Sarah Bokone
Biography

Sarah Bokone is a portrait photographer based in Northeast Ohio whose work is centered on emotion, symbolism, and human connection. Her imagery often incorporates natural elements and minimalist compositions to explore vulnerability and intimacy. Influenced by both editorial photography and visual storytelling, her work invites viewers into emotionally charged yet deeply quiet moments.

She is the owner and operator of Boko Photo where she creates portraits that feel natural, expressive, and personal with an emphasis on connection and creativity. Her goal is to help people feel comfortable, seen, and confident in front of the camera, all with an editorial flair. Visit her work @ <https://www.bokocreative.com/>



Kevin KC Cunningham

Biography

Kevin Cunningham's connection to art and design began in early childhood, where a fascination with creativity, visual storytelling, and drawing naturally evolved into a lifelong passion. This interest led him to pursue a formal education in graphic design, providing a strong foundation in composition, balance, typography, and visual communication—skills that continue to influence his work today.

In 2019, Kevin organically expanded his creative pursuits by picking up a camera. What began as an exploration of color photography soon developed into a deeper appreciation for the fundamentals of image-making. Over time, he found that color often distracted from the elements that interested him most: shape, light, shadow, texture, and composition. This realization led him toward predominantly black-and-white photography, where he could focus on creating images with greater emotional impact and visual clarity.

Drawing inspiration from both his design background and the world around him, Kevin's photography emphasizes strong compositions, dramatic contrast, and thoughtful storytelling. His work often explores the landscapes, architecture, and shoreline communities of Northeast Ohio, transforming familiar scenes into timeless and evocative images.

Today, Kevin combines his experience in graphic design with his passion for photography, creating work that reflects a keen attention to detail, a deep appreciation for visual structure, and a commitment to capturing compelling moments through a unique artistic perspective **Visit Kevin on Instagram:** https://www.instagram.com/kevin_cunningham_photo/



William D. Lewis

Biography

William D. Lewis, a lifelong native of Trumbull County, has harbored a deep passion for photography since childhood. Inspired at an early age by the compelling imagery in magazines like *Look*, *Life*, and *National Geographic*, he was hooked the moment he realized that capturing those moments was a real person's job. This realization launched his lifelong creative journey.

His dedication began in earnest at Warren Western Reserve High School. During this time he built a darkroom in his parents' basement. After graduating in 1971, he attended Kent State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism in 1977. Lewis began his professional career in 1978 as a staff photographer for Warren's *Tribune Chronicle*. In 1985, he joined *The Vindicator* in Youngstown, where he served as a dedicated staff photographer until the newspaper's closure in 2019.

Over a photojournalism career spanning more than 40 years, Lewis documented the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of the Mahoning Valley. Deeply moved by the people who opened up to him, he considered it a great honor and responsibility to be invited into the everyday lives of local residents to share their stories with readers.

In retirement, Lewis continues his photographic journey by shifting his focus to the natural splendor of Lake Erie. Passionate about capturing the many changing moods of this Great Lake, his work in this exhibit features striking lake scenes, lighthouses, and ships—many photographed directly from his appropriately named sailboat, *Assignment*.



Charles Mintz Biography

Chuck Mintz brings a unique blend of technical expertise and artistic training to his fine art photography. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) from Purdue University and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (MSEE) from Cleveland State University. He went on to formalize his photographic practice through extensive studies at the Maine Media Workshops (formerly the Maine Photographic Workshop), Parsons School of Design, the International Center for Photography, Lakeland Community College, and Cuyahoga Community College.

An active leader in the arts and civic communities, Mintz is the former board chair of ICA–Art Conservation in Cleveland, Ohio, and a former board member of the Cleveland Museum of Art’s Friends of Photography. He also serves as a Life Director for Jewish Family Services of Cleveland.

Mintz’s photographs are held in numerous public, private, and corporate collections across North America, Europe, and Asia, including the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. In recognition of his artistic achievements, he was twice honored with the Ohio Arts Council’s prestigious Individual Excellence Award, receiving the accolade in both 2015 and 2017.

To view his portfolios and current projects, visit www.chuckmintz.com.



Richard States

Bio

Richard States is a horticulturist, retired educator, and published author of educational multimedia. Over a 25-year teaching career, he taught horticulture in the Warren City School System at Western Reserve. His passion for photography originally grew out of a practical need to document his students' work and to create high-quality visual slides illustrating various plants and materials for classroom use.

Throughout his career in education, States authored seven educational slide series and co-authored three others for horticulture instruction. Published by The Ohio State University, these series have since been transitioned and reproduced in electronic formats.

An accomplished photographer, States is a past president of the Warren Photography Society, where he has won numerous First Place and Slide of the Year awards. In 2003, he earned his fourth Photographic Society of America (PSA) Gold Medal, alongside a history of frequent honorable mentions.

His photography has been featured in major advertising campaigns, and he has captured more than fifty cover photos for *The Buckeye*, the official publication of the Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association.

States' contributions to education have earned him significant recognition. He was the state winner of the *Cameras in the Curriculum* program, sponsored by Kodak and the Ohio Education Association. In 2006, the Industrial Information Institute for Education honored him with the Outstanding Educator Award.

States frequently shares his expertise by conducting community workshops and is an active member of the Trumbull Art Gallery.

