

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM, JONATHAN LESSUCK AND DAHLMA LLANOS-FIGUEROA COLLABORATE ON *ARTISTS AFTER MARIA* EXHIBITION AT BxARTS FACTORY

BRONX, NY, October 7, 2019—Photographer Jonathan Lessuck and wife, novelist, Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa have partnered to launch an exhibition entitled, *Artists After Maria* at the BxArts Factory. The photography and narrative exhibition runs from November 4, 2019, to December 6, 2019, and highlights 10 artists and one community service provider from Puerto Rico whose lives and work have been affected by Hurricane Maria.

“We wanted to shed some light on the areas of Puerto Rico that were not being covered in the press. The heart of the project began in Loíza, and as we met the artists they continued to recommend other artists,” stated Jonathan. “While Dahlma’s vision is to bring this exhibition throughout different neighborhoods in the Bronx, we would love the opportunity to bring it to other neighborhoods and cities as well. We look forward to seeing how this will evolve and will continue to highlight how artists are moving forward creatively after Maria.”

The photographic works of Jonathan Lessuck each includes a narrative description written by Dahlma, based on interview sessions they had with each individual. The artists from Puerto Rico featured in the exhibition include painters Ramón Bulerín (Canóvanas), Carmelo Fontáñez Cortijo (Río Piedras), Samuel García (Arecibo), Martín García Rivera (Río Piedras), and Rafael Trelles (Santurce); painter/sculptor Samuel Lind (Loíza); artisan/doll designer Teresa Meléndez Padilla (Río Piedras); muralist Raysa Rodríguez García (Carolina); poet/short story writer Anahí González Cantini (Carolina); poet/novelist Mayra Santos Febres (Santurce), and community organizer Maricruz Rivera Clemente (Piñones).

“It is important to share their stories. We are excited to collaborate for the first time on such a meaningful project, stated Dahlma. “We are grateful our exhibition is in the skilled hands of the BxArts Factory’s curating team.”

The opening reception for *Artists After Maria* will take place on Thursday, November 7, 2019, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the BxArts Factory studio located at 240 East 153rd Street in the Bronx. Two workshops will be included during the run of the exhibition. Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa will host a Creative Writing Workshop on November 14, 2019, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm; and Jonathan Lessuck will host a Photography Workshop on December 5, 2019, from 6:00 to 9:00pm. (Visit artful.ly/bxartsfactory for workshop registration.)

The exhibition is accompanied by the catalogue *Artists After Maria*, featuring the photographic works of Jonathan Lessuck each photograph includes a narrative description by Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa. The catalog is not for sale.

About Jonathan Lessuck

Jonathan Lessuck is a native New Yorker, raised on the Upper West Side, who began taking pictures at the age of 10. In 2016, after spending 32 years as a New York City high school teacher, Jonathan developed his photography from a hobby to an avocation. Today he spends his time walking New York City and traveling the world, with his camera in hand, looking for that perfect shot. He has participated in several group shows in Yonkers, The Bronx, Manhattan, and Brooklyn. His solo show, *Puerto Rico in my Lens* was held at the Bronx Library Center in November 2018. www.JLessuckPhotography.com

About Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa

Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa's first novel, *Daughters of the Stone* was selected as a finalist for the 2010 PEN America Bingham Literary Award. Her work has appeared in a number of literary journals including *Narrative Fiction*, *Kweli Journal*, *Label Me Latina*, *The Latino Book Review*, *Pleiades*, *The Afro-Hispanic Review*, and *Auburn Avenue*. She has also contributed to several anthologies, including the bilingual publication, *Breaking Ground: An Anthology of Puerto Rican Women Writers in New York City 1980-2012* and *Latina Authors and Their Muses*. www.DahlmaLlanosFigueroa.com

About BxArts Factory

BxArts Factory is a grassroots, 501c3, non-profit organization that connects Bronx-based artists and community, in experiences, events and opportunities for connection, community development and healing. They assist affiliated artists to engage and advance the arts in communities throughout the borough via a diverse set of arts-oriented programming and services. Through collaborations with local artists and community-based organizations, they offer dynamic arts programming that incorporates education and showcase a variety of art genres. The BxArts Factory provides unique and engaging experiences to advance the Arts and cultural education in the Bronx. www.BxArtsFactory.org

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