

MEDIA ADVISORY

Martin Parr, Joel-Peter Witkin Headline Inaugural International Photography Festival

WASHINGTON, DC (April 17, 2018) — Martin Parr and Joel-Peter Witkin, two of the most influential photographers of our time will talk about their work and storied careers at the upcoming [Focus on the Story International Photo Festival](#). They will be joined by renowned photographers Maggie Steber, Brian Griffin and Ed Kashi, and rising stars Endia Beal and Xyza Cruz Bacani, among many others.

The inaugural Focus on the Story International Photo Festival will dive into a diverse array of topics, from Beal's exploration of attitudes on race and gender to Bacani's focus on modern-day slavery to Kashi's talk on how to use powerful storytelling in advocacy. Parr and Witkin, who were both named to Professional Photographer Magazine's list of the "100 Most Influential Photographers of All Time," will talk about the impact that their work has had on a generation of photographers.

The festival will take place on June 7 - 10, 2018, at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC.. Media registration is now open. To request a media pass, or to schedule an interview with one of the speakers, please be in touch with Allegra Harpootlian (allegra@rethinkmedia.org).

A full list of speakers is available [here](#). A detailed schedule can be found [here](#). Please note that times of scheduled sessions may change in the coming weeks.

EVENT DETAILS

- **WHAT:** [Focus on the Story International Photo Festival](#)

- **WHERE:** John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (1740 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington D.C., 20036)

- **WHEN:** June 7 - 10, 2018

- **WHO:**
 - **Xyza Cruz Bacani** is a former domestic worker in Hong Kong who has become an internationally-recognized street and documentary photographer who focuses on modern slavery and human rights issues.

 - **Endia Beal** is a North Carolina based artist, educator and activist, who is internationally known for her photographic narratives and video testimonies that examine the personal, yet contemporary stories of women of color working within the corporate space.

 - **Brian Griffin** a British portrait photographer was named "the photographer of the decade" by the Guardian Newspaper in 1989 and "the most unpredictable and influential British portrait

photographer of the last decades” by the British Journal of Photography in 2005. He is best known for his iconic album covers and portraits of musicians in the 1970s and 80s.

- **Ed Kashi** is a photojournalist and filmmaker dedicated to documenting the social and political issues that define our times. In 2014, him and his wife, filmmaker Julie Winokur, began an innovative project with Rutgers University-Newark called *Newest Americans*, a storytelling project focused on the issue of immigration, and in 2017 received a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities grant to continue the project for two more years.

- **Martin Parr** is one of the best-known documentary photographers of his generation. He has developed an international reputation for his innovative imagery, his oblique approach to social documentary, and his input to photographic culture within the UK and abroad.

- **Josué Rivas** (Mexico/Otomi) is a visual storyteller working at the intersection of art, journalism, and advocacy to challenge the mainstream narrative about indigenous peoples. His work aims to create awareness about issues affecting native communities across Turtle Island and to be a messenger for those in the shadows of our society. He is the founder of the *Standing Strong Project*.

- **Griselda San Martín** is a Spanish documentary photographer based in New York City, where she explores transnational issues focusing on borders, cultures, and identities, and challenging the popular assumptions that dominate media discourses.

- **Maggie Steber** is a documentary photographer who has worked in 67 countries, focusing on humanitarian, cultural, and social stories. Her honors include the Leica Medal of Excellence, World Press Photo Foundation, the Overseas Press Club, Pictures of the Year, the Medal of Honor for Distinguished Service to Journalism from the University of Missouri, the Alicia Patterson and Ernst Haas Grants, and a Knight Foundation grant for the *New American Newspaper project*.

- **Joel-Peter Witkin** is an American photographer who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His work often deals with such themes as death, corpses (and sometimes dismembered portions thereof), and various outsiders such as dwarves, transsexual and intersex persons, as well as physically deformed people. Witkin's complex tableaux often recall religious episodes or classical paintings.