

## Three Powerful Shows Electrify Miami's New Season of Art at the Frost Art Museum FIU



**Jess T. Dugan  
and Vanessa  
Fabbre:  
To Survive on  
This Shore**

(Jan. 23 - April 28)

One of the definitions of ageism is "to regard older persons as unworthy of

attention." These photos and interviews **reveal how our culture lacks representation of older adults who are transgender and gender non-conforming.** Dugan and Fabbre traveled from coast to coast, across the U.S. to document these life stories. Due to the recent news about efforts to ban transgender Americans from serving in the military, and the terribly disproportionate levels of violence committed against transgender people, this exhibition is timely and powerful.

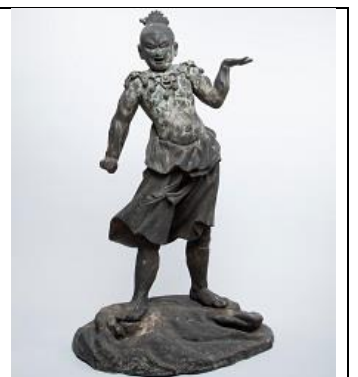
**LaToya Ruby Frazier:  
Flint is Family**

(Jan. 30 - April 14)

The photographer and MacArthur Fellow, LaToya Ruby Frazier, explores the Flint water crisis and the tragic and heartbreaking effects on families and residents. As a witness to their daily lives, Frazier documented how they endured **one of the most**

**devastating man-made ecological crises in U.S.**

**history.** For five months, she lived with women from three generations – the poet Shea Cobb, Shea's mother, Renée Cobb, and her daughter, Zion – **using the camera as a weapon and agent for social change.** Frazier had a different story to tell. The story of forgotten Americans and the fundamental need we all share for clean water.



**Asian Crossroads: Influence and Interaction Along the Maritime Silk Road**

(Feb. 9 – May 19) This first-ever exhibition of its kind in Florida explores **the dramatic odyssey across the maritime version of the Silk Road** that forever changed the world. Maritime archaeology of shipwrecks has greatly broadened our understanding of the **epic relationships between the various Asian countries** across the Maritime Silk Road, from the 10<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries – drawing upon the museum's collection of antiquities from China, Japan, India, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Indonesia and the Philippines.



**Jess T. Dugan and Vanessa Fabbre: To Survive on This Shore**

(Jan. 23 - April 28)

*To Survive on This Shore* was organized by Barrett Barrera Projects. The Frost is the first museum to show this exhibition.

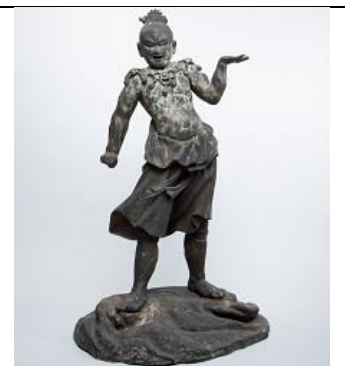
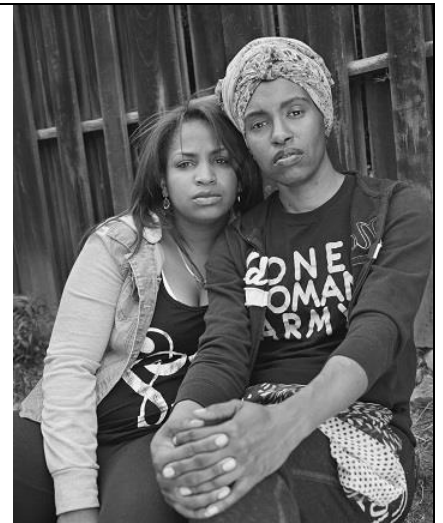
Documenting the life stories of this important but **largely underrepresented group of older adults**, the subjects have a wide variety of life narratives spanning the last ninety years, offering an important historical record of the transgender experience in the United States. While Dugan’s earlier work focused on issues of identity, gender, and sexuality – and often on LGBTQ communities specifically – **this is Dugan’s first body of work that focuses on older adults**, a result of her collaboration with Fabbre. Dugan’s portraits are **open, emotive, and nuanced**, utilizing **direct eye contact to evoke a meaningful exchange** between subject and viewer. For the accompanying texts, Fabbre selected interviews to enhance the viewer’s connection to each subject’s story.

**LaToya Ruby Frazier: Flint is Family**

(Jan. 30 - April 14)

After the water supply in Flint was switched, residents began noticing rashes on their skin and their hair was falling out. There was **an outbreak of Legionnaires’**

**disease, and twelve people died.** One resident’s water tested **twenty-seven times the federal limit for lead**, and lead was discovered in the **water fountains at three public schools.** It would take over seventeen months for the state of Michigan, to switch the water back. By this time, **irreparable damage occurred to thousands of people.** Frazier captured close family moments as well as the daily efforts the family faced without access to clean water. Simple tasks, like cooking a meal, were not possible. Flint residents were forced to drink, cook with and even bathe in bottled water, while paying some of the highest water bills in the country for their poisoned water.



**Asian Crossroads: Influence and Interaction Along the Maritime Silk Road**

(Feb. 9 – May 19) The exhibition is drawn exclusively from the current Asian rare art holdings, ceramics and antiquities of the Frost Art Museum’s collection - many never before exhibited - extensively researched by guest curator Brian Dursum, (Director Emeritus, Lowe Art Museum). This show provides **a new perspective through a sweeping narrative about trade, commerce, and exchange of creative ideas throughout Asia from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.** The Silk Road was an ancient route not only by land, but also by the sea, where ideas and goods flowed. The three sections of the exhibition focus on archaeology, trade, and belief systems. In addition to goods, maritime trade also spearheaded the transfer of ideas, religion and technology.



**Jess T. Dugan  
and Vanessa  
Fabbre:  
To Survive on  
This Shore**

(Jan. 23 - April 28)

Jess T. Dugan is an artist whose work **explores issues of gender, sexuality,**

**identity and community** via photographic portraiture. Dugan is the recipient of a 2015 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, was selected by the White House as a 2015 *Champion of Change*, was honored as a Commended Artist by the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, and is the recipient of the Women Photograph + Nikon Grant. In 2015, Dugan founded the Strange Fire Artist Collective to **highlight work made by women, people of color, and LGBTQ artists** Vanessa Fabbre is a social worker and assistant professor at Washington University in St. Louis, whose research focuses on **intersections of LGBTQ issues and aging.**

**LaToya Ruby  
Frazier: Flint is  
Family**

(Jan. 30 - April 14)

Frazier works in photography, video and performance to build visual archives that address **industrialism, revitalization of**



**the rustbelt, environmental justice, healthcare inequity, family and communal history.** Her many awards and honors include: the International Center for Photography Infinity Award, fellowships from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's MacArthur Fellows Program, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award. In 2015, the Allegheny County Council (Pennsylvania, USA) awarded Frazier a Proclamation thanking her for "examining race, class, gender and citizenship in our society and **inspiring a vision for the future that offers inclusion, equity and justice to all.**"



**Asian Crossroads: Influence and Interaction Along the Maritime Silk Road**

(Feb. 9 – May 19) A publication will accompany this exhibition that showcases the surprising discoveries made by guest curator, Brian Dursum, upon his two years of extensive research about the Arts of Asia collection at the museum. He completed a full survey of the museum's Asian holdings and was surprised by the strengths, particularly of the Southeast Asian material. This exhibition will present rarely seen, exquisite works from the collection, and offers visitors the opportunity to see recent gifts, including **Vietnamese stoneware, Ban Chiang jewelry** and clay stamps along with **rare ceramics** and **a stone Buddha figure from Burma.**



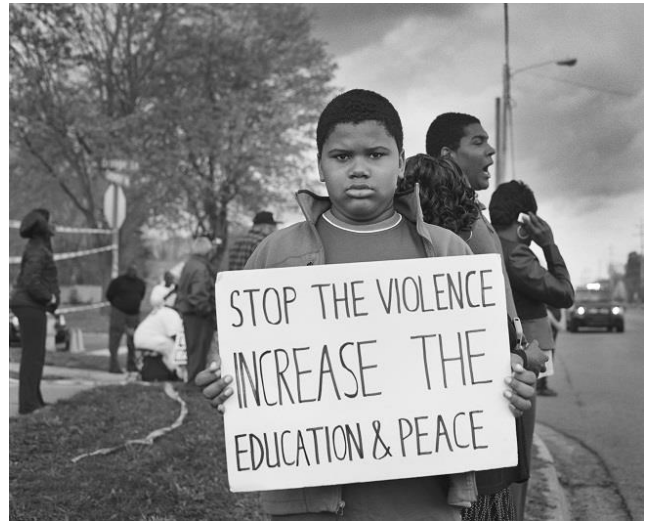


**Jess T. Dugan and  
Vanessa Fabbre:  
To Survive on  
This Shore**

(Jan. 23 - April 28)

The exhibition provides an intense view into the struggles and joys of growing older as a transgender person

and **what it means to live authentically despite seemingly insurmountable odds.** At the Frost, this show was **organized by the museum's Chief Curator, Dr. Amy Galpin.** The research work of Vanessa Fabbre explores the conditions under which LGBTQ people age well, and what this means in the context of structural forces such as heteronormativity, heterosexism, and transphobia. The hardcover book [\*To Survive on This Shore - Photographs and Interviews with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Older Adults\*](#) by Jess T. Dugan and Vanessa Fabbre was recently published by Kehrer Verlag. **The show is part of the museum's commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall riots,** which will also feature the presentation in the fall of *Art After Stonewall (1969-1989)*, the first major museum exhibition about how the LGBT civil-rights movement impacted the art world.



**LaToya Ruby Frazier: Flint is Family**

(Jan. 30 - April 14) The original photo documentary by Frazier was featured in [the 2016 expose by ELLE Magazine](#). The voices of the resilient families who suffered and insistently thrived through the worst man-made environmental catastrophe in U.S. history narrate [this compelling video](#). At the Frost Art Museum FIU, **this exhibition was organized by Maryanna Ramirez, Manager of Strategic Initiatives,** and is part of the museum's Martin Luther King, Jr. exhibition series. Sponsored by: the African & African Diaspora Studies Program/College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts, the FIU Alumni Association, the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, and Multicultural Programs and Services.



**Asian Crossroads: Influence and Interaction Along the Maritime Silk Road**

(Feb. 9 – May 19) The story of the Silk Road often emphasizes the trade of objects across land, while this exhibition emphasizes cross-cultural exchanges on the sea that impacted history. **Major funding for this exhibition is made possible through the generosity of the Jane Hsiao Endowment.**

## RELATED EVENTS, LECTURES AND OPENING RECEPTIONS

(opening receptions, tours and artist lectures are free and open to the public; there is a cost to attend the MarkerSPACE Workshop)

Events for *LaToya Ruby Frazier: Flint is Family*:

- Opening Reception – Wednesday, Jan. 30 (5:00-7:00 p.m.)
- Curator’s Tour – Tuesday, Feb. 12 (1:00 p.m.)
- Flint Water Crisis Panel Discussion – Thursday, Feb. 21 (4:00 p.m.). More details, including panelist info, [at this link](#)

Events for *Jess T. Dugan and Vanessa Fabbre: To Survive on This Shore*:

- Opening Reception – Saturday, Feb. 9 (4:00 – 7:00 p.m.)
- Artist Lecture, Jess T. Dugan – Saturday, Feb. 9 (3:00 p.m.)
- Book Signing, Jess T. Dugan – Saturday, Feb. 9 (4:00 p.m.)
- Zine Workshop – Wednesday, March 6 (12:30 p.m.) Register [here](#)

Events for *Asian Crossroads: Influence and Interaction Along the Maritime Silk Road*:

- Opening Reception – Saturday, Feb. 9 (4:00 – 7:00 p.m.)
- Gallery Tour by Guest Curator, Brian Dursum – Saturday, Feb. 9 (4:15 p.m.)
- Zine Workshop – Wednesday, Feb. 6 (12:30 p.m.) Register [here](#)
- MarkerSPACE Workshop – Saturday, March 23 (10:30 a.m.). More details, including registration and ticket prices [at this link](#).

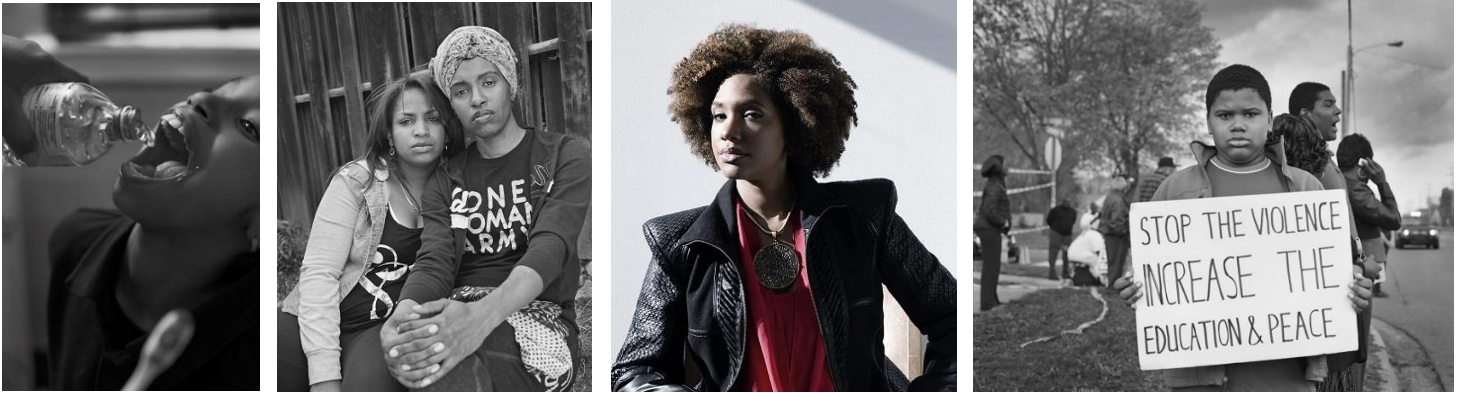
## PHOTO CREDITS:



Left-to-right:

1. *Duchess Milan*, 69, Los Angeles, CA, 2017 (image courtesy of projects+gallery and Jess T. Dugan)
2. *Dee Dee Ngozi*, 55, Atlanta, GA, 2016 (image courtesy of projects+gallery and Jess T. Dugan)
3. Portrait of Jess T. Dugan, photograph by Rafael Soldi
4. *Tony*, 67, San Diego, CA, 2014 (image courtesy of projects+gallery and Jess T. Dugan)

PHOTO CREDITS (continued):



Left-to-right: all images courtesy of the artist and Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York / Rome

1. LaToya Ruby Frazier, *Shea brushing Zion's teeth with bottled water in her bathroom*, (2016/2017), Gelatin silver print
2. LaToya Ruby Frazier, *Shea with her best friend Amber Hasan, a manager, poet, writer, comedian, activist and community organizer*, (2016/2017), Gelatin silver print
3. Portrait of LaToya Ruby Frazier, photograph by Steve Benisty
4. LaToya Ruby Frazier, *Students and Residents outside Northwestern High School (est. 1964) awaiting the arrival of President Barack Obama, May 4th 2016, I*, (2016/2017), Gelatin silver print



Left-to-right:

1. *Head of Buddha*, (Ancient Gandhara: Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, ca. 90-100), Stone (schist), Metropolitan Museum and Art Center Collection, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. C. Ruxton Love
2. *Dish with a Foliate Rim*, (Burma, 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century), Stoneware, Gift of Raymond and Judi Richards
3. *Vessel*, (China, Majiayao culture, ca. 2200 BC), Pottery, Gift of the Rubin-Ladd Foundation
4. *Temple Guardian*, (Japan, 1600-1700), Bronze, lacquer, Metropolitan Museum and Art Center Collection, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. C. Ruxton Love

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