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## **The John Chervinsky Emerging Photographer Scholarship 2019**

January 14, 2020 (Winchester, MA) Photographer John Chervinsky, whose work explored the concept of time, passed away in December of 2015, following a typically resolute battle with pancreatic cancer. The modesty and unassuming character John conveyed in life belies the extent to which he will be missed, not only by his family and friends, but also by the entire photographic community of which he was so proud to be a part.

The John Chervinsky Emerging Photographer Scholarship was announced in June 2016 to recognize, encourage and reward photographers with the potential to create a body of work and sustain solo exhibitions. Awarded annually, the Scholarship provides recipients with a monetary award, an exhibition of their work at the [Griffin Museum of Photography](#), and a volume from John's personal library of photography books. The Scholarship seeks to provide a watershed moment in the professional lives of emerging photographers, providing them with the support and encouragement necessary to develop, articulate and grow their own vision for photography.

The fourth year in 2019, 100 photographers submitted applications to be considered for the scholarship.

After much thought and consideration, the judges (Mia Dalglis, Blue Mitchell, Jan Potts and Elizabeth Cordon and Kirsten Rlan), chose [Michelle Rogers-Pritzl](#) as the fourth recipient of the [John Chervinsky Emerging Photographer Scholarship](#).

The judges, said, "Michelle's modern adaptation of the antique tintype process mirrors her emergence from a fundamentalist marriage. The intense imagery of *Not Waving But Drowning* aptly illustrates her personal experience of abuse within her marriage.

Rogers-Pritzl's photographs demonstrate her potential for depth and sophistication. Bodies of work that resonate such as *Not Waving But Drowning*, linger long past viewing and expose some sort of truth. Done well, the complexities of human nature unfurl in a different way as time is spent with each image. The layers of what is lost, and what is found, while exploring the implications of evangelical marriage, are masterfully handled with a gentle directness.

As jurors, we believe Pritzl will continue to develop photographically. We are excited to watch her work continue to make its way out into the world. It needs to be seen."

Michelle Rogers-Pritzl submitted *Not Waving But Drowning* for consideration for the scholarship. Rogers-Pritzl says of the body of work:

"*Not Waving But Drowning* is a look inside an Evangelical marriage. These images show the truth of a life lived in the confines of oppressive gender roles, cult-like manipulation, and the isolation of Fundamentalism.

Each image is equivalence for the unseen, for the reality behind facade. Despite the smiles and appearance of perfection, Complementarianism is an abusive system in which a wife serves her husband as a helpmeet, remains silent, and prays for her spouse to become a better man.

I use self-portraiture to share my own experience within the Fundamentalist Lifestyle without being explicitly autobiographical. My chosen medium of collodion used with contemporary digital media represents the outdated behaviors and rules imposed on women by Fundamentalism.”

**Michelle Rogers-Pritzl’s Statement of Purpose:**

“Since I began graduate school in Boston in 2012 I have been on a journey of deconstruction of faith and reclamation of my life for myself which catapulted me into a divorce in 2014. I knew then that I would eventually tell the story of this final step in leaving behind the faith I was raised in and an abusive situation. *Not Waving But Drowning* tells the story of my marriage and my escape. It is my own stand against oppression of any people by religion or other factors.

Although my work has been about my own journey I believe in the power of photography to change and empower people. I feel that it is more important than ever to stand up and tell my story openly. When I left my husband, many people believed I should run away and hide in shame. Instead, living the life that is right for me, free from the stifles of religion has brought me joy I never imagined.

I want to share my photography with a larger audience, and to continue developing my career as an emerging photographer. The grant money would allow me to finish printing and framing this series, which would enable me to exhibit the series in its’ entirety.” - MRP

A call for new submissions will occur on August 1, 2020. The exhibition for Rogers-Pritzl’s *Not Waving But Drowning* will take place at the Griffin Museum in the Griffin Gallery from March 5 – March 27, 2020. A reception will take place on March 15, 2020 from 4 – 6 PM. An award presentation will take place at the reception.

The Griffin Museum of Photography is open Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. The museum is closed on Monday. General admission is \$9 for adults; \$5 for seniors. Members and children under 12 are admitted free. Admission is free to all every Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 781-729-1158, or visit [www.griffinmuseum.org](http://www.griffinmuseum.org).

**Photographs available upon request**

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**About the Griffin Museum**

The Griffin Museum of Photography was founded in 1992 to provide a forum for the exhibition of both historic and contemporary photography. The Museum houses three galleries dedicated solely to the exploration of photographic arts: The Main Gallery, which features rotating exhibits from some of the world’s leading photographers, the Atelier Gallery and Griffin Gallery dedicated to showcasing the works of prominent, up-and-coming artists. The Griffin is also home to the extensive archives of museum founder and world-renowned photojournalist Arthur Griffin. The Griffin Museum of Photography also maintains 4 additional satellite galleries: Lafayette City Center Passageway in Boston Downtown Crossing, The Griffin at SoWa, The Griffin at WinCAM in Winchester and The Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham, MA. For more on the Griffin Museum of Photography, visit [www.griffinmuseum.org](http://www.griffinmuseum.org).