



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 6, 2019

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**Portraits and Stories:  
Artist Krina Patel Curates Portrait Exhibition  
with McKinley Middle School Students and Boston Photographers at Midway  
Studios**

**Portraits and Stories: Students, photographers and artists present stories through images**  
Midway Gallery at the Midway Artist Studios, 15 Channel Center Street, Boston, MA 022

**Public Opening Reception:**

Thursday, May 16, 2019, 6-8pm. RSVP: <https://portraitsandstories.eventbrite.com>

**Exhibition on view: 05/16-06/14/2019**

**Gallery Hours: Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm and by appointment.**

**Participating Artists:** Michael Allen, Jaypix Belmer, Joel Benjamin, Avaughn Brown\*, Jerry Carr\*, Ciarah Castro\*, Angel De Jesus\*, William Dubost\*, Sylvia Stagg Giuliano, Pete Grana, Lou Jones, Christ Orelus\*, Joyce Parrish\*, Krina Patel, Robin Radin, Addonis Reed\*, Tina Ruffin\*, Waddell Williams\*

*\* Students in the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts partnership with McKinley Middle School*

**Curatorial Statement**

Portraits are a statement about life. The images in *Portraits and Stories* weave together stories of individual lives. Central is the story of youth as told by young people and the adults around them. A group of middle school students tell their stories through images they have selected. Arrayed around these are images by artists and photographers who have chosen to tell stories of other lives, moments in time that they have had the privilege of capturing. Together the images reflect the ebb and flow of life and assert life as it is being lived.

Originating in privilege, portraiture that was once associated with status has had to evolve. Today the human subject sees the self, presses a button and has the choice to erase the image, embellish it with filters, fix it as they please, all in real time. Technology has snatched away the semblance of importance that once was the privilege of a few and bestowed it on the many. We have the freedom to define our lives and give others permission to define it. This is evident in the works in this exhibit, where the fragility of youth, the aspirational self, the playful self, a range of individuals and emotions are on view. We see hints of joy and laughter, shadows of ambitions and achievements, loneliness and grief. Many of the photos speak about love and acceptance, and of everyday life.

As in the images on view, so in the persons photographing we see the diversity of artist photographers. This points to a future in which art-making, once the privilege of a few, becomes accessible to many. Together, these students and professional artist photographers present a fresh perspective on the individual self. This way of

bringing together young and seasoned artists in the gallery breaks down barriers, rendering the gallery a democratic community space. Here we come together to celebrate life. We establish that all lives matter.

— Krina Patel

## Contact:

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Partners: Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts, Boston Public Schools, McKinley Middle School, Midway Gallery

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*See attached images. Additional images available upon request.*

## About Krina Patel

As an experienced artist educator with a doctoral degree from Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Patel has worked in K – 12 classrooms, higher education and with organizations with global connections.

Currently, Patel works in the Boston Public Schools, through the Eliot School & Community Partnership Program, as a visiting artist, enabling her to pursue a passion for engaging young people in working with their hands, making and learning. She is committed to working towards inclusion while addressing issues of socio-economic disparities and inequities.

Over the years she has maintained a studio and design practice, and is certified as an artist by the City of Boston.

For more about Patel's research, writing and professional experience please contact her at [positivelylearn@gmail.com](mailto:positivelylearn@gmail.com), on LinkedIn @ [krinapatelpositively](#) and on twitter @[positivelylearn](#).

## About the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts

The Eliot School inspires lifelong learning in craftsmanship and creativity for all. It sends artists and artisans to teach visual arts and woodworking to young people in schools and community centers throughout Boston, and offers classes for all ages in its two Jamaica Plain locations. Artisans' talks, an annual artist's residency, a multi-year teen program and family events round out its programs. For more information, visit [eliot.school.org](http://eliot.school.org) or follow @[eliot.school](#) on Twitter and Facebook.

## About Midway Studios

Midway Artist Studios offers 89 live-work spaces for Artists in Boston's Fort Point neighborhood. Midway Artists participate twice a year in FPAC's Open Studios events, opening their studios to the public, providing workshops, demonstrations, seminars and public art.

As Boston's largest affordable live-work building, Midway Artist Studios was established in 2005 as a place for artists to live and work affordably in Boston, when the real estate boom swept through Fort Point and displaced hundreds of working artists. Midway Artist Studios is unique and pivotal as the only remaining artist rental building in Fort Point, successfully operating for ten years.

The rental model allows emerging artists a place to stay and work in Boston, and artists from around the world to come and work in Boston. It encourages the free flow of ideas between disciplines and generations.

In 2014, the artists organized themselves to purchase the building, making it a permanent rental artist controlled building, run by a board of directors, elected in part by the artist residents themselves.



School Day by Tina Brown, McKinley Student



School Day Ms. Joseph, McKinley Staff



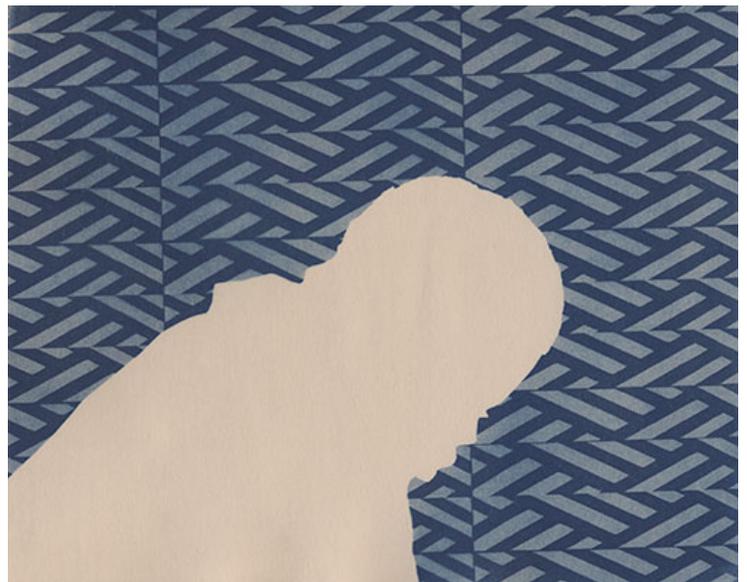
Pretend to be in the NBA by Avaughn Brown



School Day by Krina Patel with McKinley Students



I wonder about my Life by Krina Patel



The Mathematician by Krina Patel