

# JACKSON FINE ART

ATLANTA

Jackson Fine Art  
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## **JULIE BLACKMON**

*Metaverse*

*In the viewing room*

## **Elliott Erwit**

*Found Not Lost*

**May 13 – July 30**

Opening Reception

May 13, 6-8pm

Artist Talk with Julie Blackmon

March 14, 11am

**Jackson Fine Art** is excited to present a solo exhibition of **Julie Blackmon**'s distinctive domestic compositions, alongside newly uncovered works by 20<sup>th</sup>-century master **Elliott Erwit**. Both artists have made their impact on the medium through finding narrative beauty in their everyday surroundings, wordlessly expressing both the comical and the poignant.

Contemporary American photographer **Julie Blackmon** draws inspiration from the raucous tavern scenes of 17<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch and Flemish painters, creating photographs based around the people and places in her small community. Blackmon has compared her surroundings to a giant Hollywood prop closet, where a Starbucks employee out on a smoke break may appear in her next photograph, or the beauty shop she passes every day becomes the setting for a new piece. "It's a fun perspective to have ... to see the world around you as a potential story or idea. It changes how you see things. Nora Ephron said, 'everything is copy,' and that has really stayed with me. I live and work in a generic town, with a generic name, in the middle of America, in the middle of nowhere... but the stories unfolding around me are endless."

Blackmon's work serves as a mash-up of pop phenomena, consumer culture, and social satire. Taking its name from the 2022 photograph "**Metaverse**," which depicts a hectic household scene unfolding around a toddler clad in a virtual reality headset, Jackson Fine Art's exhibition follows Blackmon's trajectory of incorporating the cultural signifiers of the present moment into touching domestic tableaux.

In the viewing room will be a selection of works from the new **Elliott Erwit** monograph **Found Not Lost** (Gost, 2021). Drawing from seven decades of previously unprinted and unexhibited work, the ninety-four year-old photographer views once dismissed negatives — one uncovered box contained a scrawled warning in the artist's hand "don't bother — pix useless" — with fresh eyes, resulting in a collection of 171 new classics. Known for his sardonic humor and winking playfulness, at times this exhibition reveals a more contemplative, quiet Erwit. As the artist explains, "there is a time for pictures that say hello, and there's a time to listen."

On **Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** from **6 to 8pm**, we'll hold an opening reception at the gallery with Julie Blackmon in attendance. On **Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>** at **11am**, join JFA and Julie Blackmon for an artist talk and gallery walk.

### **About Julie Blackmon**

**Julie Blackmon** was born in 1966 in Springfield, Missouri, where she currently lives and works. She studied art at Missouri State University, where she became interested in photographers Sally Mann and Diane Arbus. Blackmon left college before finishing her degree, but turned again to photography years later as a mother of three, using her domestic experience as a focus for her early work.

Mind Games was Blackmon's first major body of work, which featured black and white images exploring childhood play. In 2004, this series won her an honorable mention in Project Competition, hosted by the Santa Fe Center for Photography, and a merit award from the Society of Contemporary Photography in Kansas City, Missouri. After Mind Games, Blackmon turned to color film to create her next body of work,

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Domestic Vacations, recalling the notably chaotic familial scenes inside carefully tailored environments. Blackmon's most recent monograph of work, *Homegrown*, follows the same formula she developed in *Domestic Vacations*, while turning to environments outside of the home.

Blackmon's photographs have been shown in a number of exhibitions and can be found in the permanent collections such as the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH; Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA; George Eastman House, Rochester, New York, NY; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO; The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO; Microsoft Art Collection, Redmond, WA; Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR; and The Walt Disney Corporation, among others. She has been included in exhibitions at institutions including The Fotografiska Museum, New York, NY; The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth, NH; Biggs Museum of American Art, Dover DE; Houston Center of Photography, Houston, TX; and many more.

## About Elliott Erwit

Elliott Erwit is one of the leading figures in magazine, advertising, and commercial photography. A member of photography's elite Magnum group since 1953, he also began making film documentaries in the 1970s. But he is best known for the warmth, humor, and wry observations in his personal work, which he has continued to produce in tandem with his commercial practice, and which are collected in best-selling volumes such as *Personal Exposures* (1988) and *Snaps* (2001).

Born in Paris to Russian émigré parents, Erwit and his family spent several years in Milan before returning to Paris, in 1938, when he was ten years old. The following year they moved to New York, before settling finally in Los Angeles in 1941. His early career, when he was an accredited Whitehouse photographer, yielded some famous images, including those of the "kitchen cabinet debate" between Nixon and Khrushchev in 1959, and images of Jacqueline Kennedy at John F Kennedy's funeral in 1963.

Elliott Erwit lives and works in New York. The author of twenty books, he has had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art; the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; the Musée d'art moderne de la Ville de Paris; the Reina Sofia, Madrid; and the Museum of Art of New South Wales, Sydney. His work is held in major public and private collections across the world.

## Contact

To request high resolution images or request an interview with Julie Blackmon, please contact Coco Conroy: [coco@jacksonfineart.com](mailto:coco@jacksonfineart.com).

Jackson Fine Art is located at 3115 East Shadowlawn Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30305. For more information about Jackson Fine Art and our artists, visit [jacksonfineart.com](http://jacksonfineart.com).