

Mark Berghash HVCCA's 2017 Spring Artist-in-Residence

I's Closed, I's Opened: The Inner Self

On view through August 30, 2017

I's Closed, I's Opened: The Inner Self is a series of head and shoulder photographic diptychs, each one accompanied by a Haiku-like poem. In creating each portrait the subjects are requested to think about their inner life. The first image is with eyes closed, the second image with eyes open. After the photo session the subject wrote down his or her thoughts and feelings. From these, Berghash and his wife Rachel, a poet, composed a Haiku-like poem for each subject. Berghash's intention in making these portraits is to record aspects of a person's true inner self.



Shi Hong Aldin

In a foreign country
For so long,
Am I still me?

In an article for *Art F City* in 2016, Rom Vaughan said, "Whether Berghash succeeds in truthfully plumbing his subjects' minds is known for certain only by them; but there is no doubt that he strikes to the core of the precept that photography is significantly related to memory.

Livia Straus, Director of HVCCA spoke of Berghash's work saying, "His combination of words and images create a powerful confessional mode that both reveals and hides."

Among other institutions, Berghash's work is included in collections of and has been exhibited at The California Museum of Photography, Riverside; Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, Ohio; Franklin Furnace Archive, NYC; International Center of Photography, NYC; International Polaroid Collection; the Jewish Museum; NYC; Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC; MOMA NYC; Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem, Israel; and Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art.

As part of his exhibition at HVCCA, Mark Berghash photographed subjects from the local community on April 1-2, 2017. Photographs taken for this project have been hung with exhibition of *I's Closed, I's Opened* photographs.