

# MATTHEW SWARTS

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I use computers to question some of the things I make with cameras.

I believe in photography's ability to touch truth, but less so in our placing of importance on it having some kind of indexical relationship to what's "real."

My work has been featured in The New York Times Magazine, WIRED, SLATE, GUP Magazine, FLAK photo, Conscientious Photography Magazine, Doubletake Magazine, Contact Sheet, Afterimage, Fotophile, In the Loupe, and other publications. I have exhibited work nationally and internationally, and I graduated from Princeton University (where I studied Ethics and the Philosophy of Value) and the Massachusetts College of Art and Design (where I completed an MFA in Photography and Digital Imaging). I was on the faculty at Amherst College, Bowdoin College, Ramapo College, The University of Connecticut, The University of Massachusetts Boston, Middlesex College, and The Community College of Rhode Island. I am the recipient of a J. William Fulbright Scholar Grant and the Ruttenberg Arts Foundation Award for the best new work nationally in photographic portraiture.

I live and work in Somerville, Massachusetts.

## EDUCATION

Princeton University, A.B. with honors, Department of Philosophy  
Massachusetts College of Art and Design, MFA, Photography and Digital Media  
Bryn Mawr College, Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Program

## PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
The Library of Congress, Washington, DC  
The George Eastman Museum, Rochester, New York  
The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago  
Transformer Station, Cleveland, Ohio  
The Collection of Fred and Laura Bidwell  
The Ruttenberg Arts Foundation, Chicago  
The Friends of Photography, San Francisco  
The Decordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA  
Light Work, Syracuse, NY  
Princeton University  
FLAK Photo Collection  
The Polaroid Collection  
The Museum of New Art, Detroit, MI  
The Boston Public Library  
The Massachusetts College of Art Collection

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The Peter C. Bunnell Collection  
Collection of Gus and Arlette Kayafas  
The Collection of Jim Fitts  
The Collection of Jeffrey Keough  
and other private collections

## ONLINE EXHIBITIONS

[DEAR DAVE,](#)  
[NEWFLESH](#)  
[FRACTION MAGAZINE](#)  
[GUP Magazine #45/EVOLUTION \(The Netherlands\)](#)  
[FLORET \(Sweden\)](#)  
[The AIPAD Photography Show 2015](#)  
[LENSCRATCH](#)  
[L'Oeil de la Photographie](#)  
[SLIDELUCK BOSTON](#)  
[SUPERMASSIVEBLACKHOLE](#)  
[SLIDELUCK CHICAGO](#)  
[WIRED](#)  
[Slate](#)  
[Crusade for Art](#)  
[Humble Arts Foundation](#)  
[Featureshoot](#)  
[Empty Stretch](#)  
[Conscientious Photography Magazine](#)  
[Fototazo](#)  
[Light Architect Magazine \(LAM\)](#)  
[Le Journal de la Photographie](#)  
[SFMOMA](#)  
[Tumblr Open Arts](#)  
[Empty Stretch](#)  
[Landscape Stories](#)  
[Fototazo](#)  
[Flak Photo Collection](#)  
[In The In-Between](#)  
[Shpilman Institute for Photography](#)  
[Saint-Lucy](#)  
[Fototazo](#)  
[Flak Photo Collection](#)  
[LPV Magazine](#)  
[Slightlylucid](#)  
[Wanderlustagraphy](#)  
[Lenscratch](#)  
[File](#)  
[Shane Lavalette Journal](#)  
[Eyecurious.com](#)  
[Featureshoot.com](#)  
[The Photographic Dictionary](#)

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## RECENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

### **PrtScn: The Lazy Art of Screenshot**

April 2022

The Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam

### **DEAR DAVE, (issue 28) (publication) (Cover and feature)**

May 2021

New York, NY

### **The Relationship Show: China Edition**

Curated by Patti Hallock and Samantha Johnston

September 19-25, 2019

PingYao International Photography Festival (Pingyao, Shanxi, China)

### **NEWFLESH (Curated by Ephrem Zelony-Mindell) (Publication)**

Gnomic Press, 2019.

### **Person, Place, or Thing**

Curated by Amy Giese

New Hampshire Institute of Art

May-August 2019

### **Le Boudoir 2.0 — by Isabelle Evertse and Annakarin Quinto**

Contemporary American Photography @

Le Recontres d'Arles

Arles, France

July 2018

### **PHMuseum: Immanence by Magali Avezou**

March-May 2018

### **AIPAD: The Photography Show**

Pier 94

New York, New York

March 31st to April 2nd, 2017

March 2017

Massachusetts College of Art and Design

**Annual Benefit Auction**

Boston, Massachusetts.

November 2016-January 2017

### **Kopeikin Gallery 25th Anniversary Exhibition**

Kopeikin Gallery, Los Angeles

December 2016-March 2017

The Relationship Show

**Colorado Photographic Arts Center (CPAC)**

Denver Colorado

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October 2016-January 2017

**A Matter of Memory**  
curated by Lisa Hostetler  
George Eastman Museum  
Rochester, New York

March 2016

Massachusetts College of Art and Design  
**Annual Benefit Auction**  
Boston, Massachusetts.

December 2015

**PULSE ART FAIR**  
Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, Florida

October 2015

**SLIDELUCK GLOBAL presents Matthew Swarts: The Alternatives**  
Bydgoszcz, Poland

September 2015

**UNSEEN Photography Fair AMSTERDAM**  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

July 2015

**Seattle Art Fair**  
Seattle, Washington

THE DAY WILL COME: a multimedia presentation from SLIDELUCK GLOBAL  
curated by Maria Teresa Salivate @  
**THE TRIENNIAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY HAMBURG**  
Hamburg, Germany

June 2015

**NEW GIFTS: CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES**  
Columbia University, New York

May 2015

**FEATURE: GUP Magazine #45/EVOLUTION (The Netherlands)**  
**FEATURE: FLORET (Sweden)**

April 2015

**FLASH FORWARD FESTIVAL 2015**  
Photo[gogues] as sponsored by The Griffin Museum of Photography  
Boston, MA

April 16-19<sup>th</sup> 2015

**The AIPAD Photography Show**  
Park Avenue Armory  
New York, New York

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**FEATURE: LENS CRATCH**

February-April 2015

**RADICAL COLOR**  
Newspace Center for Photography  
Portland, Oregon

Feb-April 2015

**Matthew Swarts at Kopeikin Gallery**  
Kopeikin Gallery  
Los Angeles, California

February 2015

**SLIDELUCK CHICAGO IV**  
Chicago, Illinois

January 2015

**FEATURE: SUPERMASSIVEBLACKHOLE Magazine**  
**FEATURE: WIRED**  
**FEATURE: SLATE**  
**INTERVIEW: Crusade for Art**

December 2014

**MIAMI PROJECT 2014**  
Kopeikin Gallery (Los Angeles)  
Miami, Florida

**WHAT IS A PORTRAIT?** (curated by Ruben Natal-San Miguel)  
RIPE Art Gallery  
New York

November 2014

**Matthew Swarts Transforms Intimate Portraits into Psychoactive Masterpieces**, by Jon Feinstein.  
Humble Arts Foundation  
New York and Seattle

October 2014

**Breaking Ground: Contemporary Photography at the College of William and Mary**  
Andrews Hall  
College of William and Mary

July 2014

**Feature: Featureshoot.com by Pelle Cass**  
New York, New York

April 2014

**Feature: Matthew Swarts**  
Empty Stretch  
Washington, DC

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March 2014

ONWARD Compe' 14 Finalist Exhibition  
Project Basho  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

November 2013

Petty Thieves Three Projection  
Presented by Empty Stretch and Furthermore  
Washington, DC

October 2013

Faculty Exhibition  
Community College of Rhode Island  
Warwick, Rhode Island

**Fototazo:** Portfolio: Matthew Swarts "BETH"

September 2013

**Conscientious Photography Magazine:** "Matthew Swarts and Beth" by Joerg Colberg

March 2013

Faculty Exhibition  
Community College of Rhode Island  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

February 2013

Texas Woman's University  
Joyce Elaine Grant Annual Juried Exhibition  
Juror: Sarah Kennel  
Associate Curator, Department of Photographs, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

**Empty Stretch:** Mathew Swarts  
Le Journal de La Photographie: In The In-Between Journal of Digital Imaging Artists

**Tumblr Open Arts:** Matthew Swarts, Beth, Long Beach Island, 2012.

January 2013

**Light Architect Magazine:** The Grandma Issue  
**SFMOMA:** Curated Tumblr

December 2012

**Saint Lucy:** One Picture One Paragraph: Matthew Swarts  
**Spilman Institute for Photography:** Another Look at the Flak Photo Collection

November 2012

**Flak Photo Collection:** Matthew Swarts, Beth, 2012.  
**Fototazo:** The Image: Matthew Swarts, Untitled (Self-Portrait), Long Beach Island, New Jersey, 2007.

October 2012

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**In The In-Between:** Journal of Digital Imaging Artists: Matthew Swarts and the Reconditioned Image  
**Landscape Stories** (Tumblr): Matthew Swarts, Open Water

September 2012

**Fototazo 115:** Matthew Swarts

August 2012

**Flak Photo Collection:** Matthew Swarts, Mary and Michael, 2007.

November 2011

**LPV Magazine:** Matthew Swarts: Appropriation

January 2011

**Slightly Lucid:** Matthew Swarts

June 2010

**The Photographic Dictionary:** Matthew Swarts: warrior.

March 2010

**File:** Matthew Swarts

December 2009

**Featureshoot: Matthew Swarts**  
**Lenscratch: Matthew Swarts**  
**Shane Lavalette Journal: Matthew Swarts**  
**Wanderlustagraphy: Matthew Swarts**

November 2009

**Eyecurious:** Matthew Swarts

August 2009

Los Angeles Center for Digital Art  
Digital Art Los Angeles International Expo

March 2009

The Photographic Resource Center at Boston University  
SYNTAX

March 2008

Kresge Gallery, Ramapo College of New Jersey  
2008 School of Contemporary Arts Faculty Exhibition

February 2008

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park  
"Photographs of Children From the DeCordova Permanent Collection"

January 2007

Louise and Bernard Palitz Gallery  
New York City  
"Digital Transitions: Selections from the LightWork Permanent Collection"

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May 2006

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park  
2006 DeCordova Annual Exhibition

February 2006

Light Work, Syracuse, New York  
"Digital Transitions: Selections from the LightWork Permanent Collection"

September 2005  
Pascal Gallery, Ramapo College of New Jersey  
"Two New: Matthew Swarts and Irina Nakhova "

January 2005

Museum of New Art (MONA), Detroit  
"Third Annual Film and Video Festival"

June 2004

Syracuse University  
Light Work Artist Residency

Fall 2002

The Boston Academy of Fine Arts  
"Ten Boston Photographers"

Spring 2002

The DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park  
"The DeCordova Collects: Recent Acquisitions"

Fall 2001

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
"Recent Acquisitions in Photography"

Fall 2001

The DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park  
"Alone: Images of Isolation"

Summer 2001

The Art Museum, Princeton University  
"The Peter C. Bunnell Collection"

Spring 2001

The Friends of Photography, San Francisco  
"Matthew Swarts/Mystery School"  
The Ruttenberg Arts Foundation Award  
Juror: Jeffrey Fraenkel

Fall 2000

Fosdick-Nelson Gallery, Alfred University  
"Precedence: Emmet Gowin and His Students" (Traveling)

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Fall 2000

Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, Massachusetts  
"Artcetera 2000"

Spring 2000

Atrium Gallery, University of Connecticut, Storrs  
"Matthew swarts: Mystery School"

September 1999

Film and Video Studies Gallery, Hampshire College  
"Seventeen Artists"

April 1999

Gallery at 185 Nassau Street, Princeton University  
"Matthew Swarts: Photographs"

November 1998

Film and Video Studies Gallery, Hampshire College  
"Matthew Swarts: Children with Cancer"

October 1998

Eli Marsh Gallery, Amherst College  
"Matthew Swarts and Karin Stack: Recent Work"

September 1998

Carpenter Center For the Arts, Harvard University  
"Matthew Swarts: Children with Cancer"

August 1998

Fuller Museum of Art, Brockton, MA  
"Nothing So Mysterious as a Fact"

February 1998

Children's Hospital-Boston/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
"Children of the Dana Farber"

May 1997

Bakalar Gallery, Massachusetts College of Art and Design  
"Matthew Swarts: Children with Cancer"

#### **PUBLICATIONS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

Please see: <http://matthewswarts.com/information/>

Dear Dave, Magazine (Issue 28, 2021) forthcoming

A Matter of Memory (Lisa Hostetler, George Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY) 2016

Semi-Finalist: Photographic Museum of Humanity Photography Grant 2018

Fraction Magazine, 2018.

New Gifts (Columbia University, 2015)

GUP Magazine (2015)

Conscientious Photography Magazine: "Matthew Swarts and Beth," by Joerg Colberg (2013)

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In the In-Between: "Matthew Swarts and the Reconditioned Image" by Gregory Eddie Jones (2012)  
LPV Magazine: "Matthew Swarts: Appropriation" by Bryan Formhals  
In the Loupe: The Photographic Resource Center, 2009 (cover and article)  
The 2006 DeCordova Annual Exhibition (catalog)  
Contact Sheet #132: The Light Work Annual 2005  
SBR Summer Stipend 2006 Trustees of Ramapo College  
LightWork, Syracuse, New York: Artist-in-Residency Program, Spring 2004  
Matthew Swarts Untitled, Self-published Artist's book, 2004  
Trustees of Bowdoin College Faculty Research Grant (2004)  
J. William Fulbright Scholar Grant (Costa Rica) 2001-2002  
Ruttenberg Arts Foundation Award, Friends of Photography, San Francisco 2000  
The New York Times Magazine, "What They Were Thinking" (September 10, 2000)  
Doubletake (Spring 1998)  
Fotophile, 34, (Winter 2000), 39 (Spring 2001)  
Afterimage, May 2001 (review)  
Children with Cancer (Self-published Artist's book) 1999  
Mystery School (Self-published Artist's book) 1999  
Trustees of Amherst College Faculty Research Grant (1998, 1999)  
Trustees of Amherst College Faculty Travel Grant (1998, 1999)  
The Polaroid Corporation Artist Support Grant (1999)  
Camphill Foundation Grant (1999, 2000)  
Inside the Institute (A Dana-Farber publication) June 1997  
Decamp Fellowship for Bioethics, Princeton University, 1991

## LECTURES AND HONORARIUMS

Artist Lecture and Presentation: Syracuse University, March 2006  
Featured Presentation: "Matthew Swarts: Mystery School," Society for Photographic Education (SPE) 2001 National Conference, Savannah, Georgia  
Columbia College Chicago: Visiting Artist Lecture, Spring 2001  
Ithaca College Spring Lecture Series: April 2000  
New York University, Visiting Artist Lecture, Spring 2000  
University of Connecticut, Visiting Artist Lecture, Spring 2000  
The George Eastman House, Artist Lecture (SPE conference), November 1999  
Harvard University, Visiting Artist Lecture, November 1998  
Rhode Island College, Visiting Artist Lecture, November 1997

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ramapo College of New Jersey  
Assistant Professor of Photography/Digital Media  
Mahwah, New Jersey  
Fall 2005-Summer 2010

Bowdoin College  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Visual Art  
Brunswick, Maine  
Fall 2002-Spring 2004

Amherst College  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Fine Arts  
Amherst, Massachusetts  
Fall 1998-Spring 2001