

nyc **SALT**

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▼ YEAR  
**E**ND  
REPORT

December 2022





**NYC Salt is the premier visual arts program for underserved youth that fosters creativity, connection, and industry pathways.**

**OUR MISSION**

NYC Salt's mission is to engage, inspire, and empower youth from low-income, predominantly immigrant communities in New York City to reach their full potential through photography.

We achieve this through rigorous, sequential art and technology instruction taught by artists and industry professionals, combined with individualized mentoring, college preparation, career exploration, and job readiness training.

We are transforming lives—and the creative arts industry of the future—from the inside out.



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# FIRST YEAR WORKSHOP

“My favorite class would have to be the water balloon demonstration. It was a really awesome way of showing how shutter speed works, and was very good for internally teaching us to pay attention to the shutter speed.” – **Inti Owens-Valverde**

Learning shutter speed



# HIGH SCHOOL RESIDENCY

Making portraits



“I had lots of fun playing with model's positions and really cultivating an aesthetic.”  
– Mikayle Despaigne

# EMERGING ARTIST FELLOWSHIP

Exploring heritage



## EDWEIN VALDEZ

is a Dominican artist from New York City. His work "Para La Cultura: a Dominican Rite of Passage" explores the Dominican and Dominican-American experience, and was created with the purpose of building community. Growing up as a first generation Dominican-American, he noticed elements of Dominican culture that are often lost in translation. This collection aims to archive some of those experiences and traditions as a roadmap to reconnect to that cultural lifeline.

## NORA MOLINA

is a Honduran multimedia artist from New York City currently based in Mexico City. Her work is a reflection of herself and her cultural traditions, with a focus on the Maguey. Here she challenges ideas of home and draws inspiration from her surroundings and her experience as a first-generation immigrant and Native American descendant. In this work, she seeks community and collaboration in relation to an endangered source and tradition.

# COLLEGE PREP & PERSISTENCE



**THE CLASS OF 2022** has started college at Boston University, Temple University, FIT, The University of Hawaii, University of New Mexico, Stony Brook University, The Art Institute of Chicago, University of New Mexico, Binghamton University, and Morgan State University.

**THE CLASS OF 2023** has just finished submitting all their applications. So far, Mikayle Despaigne has received a full scholarship to Smith College!

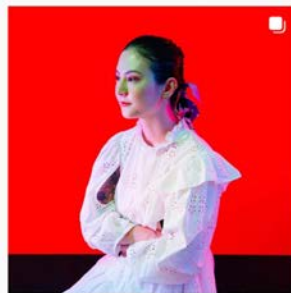
# CAREER PATHWAYS

## PUBLICATIONS



**MALIKE SIDIBE** shoots Samuel L. Jackson and LaTanya R. Jackson for *Stern Magazine*.

**CHRISTIAN RODRIGUEZ** shoots a representation-themed ad campaign for Best Buy.



**MAMADI DOUMBOUYA** regularly shoots stars for *New York Times Magazine's* interview section, like Bono, Julio Torres, Jerrod Carmichael, Quinta Brunson, Neil Gaiman, Michelle Zauner, and Tom Hanks.



More of this.

More representation.  
More ownership.

More of this.



# CAREER PATHWAYS

## EXHIBITIONS



### DEVIN OSORIO

exhibits at Charlie James Gallery, Art Basel, Armory Show Eve Leibe Gallery, among others.



### SALT GOES TO AMSTERDAM

Malike Sidibe and Danny Martinez earn over \$14,000 in sales at the Unseen Photo Fair, and Salt makes global connections in Amsterdam.

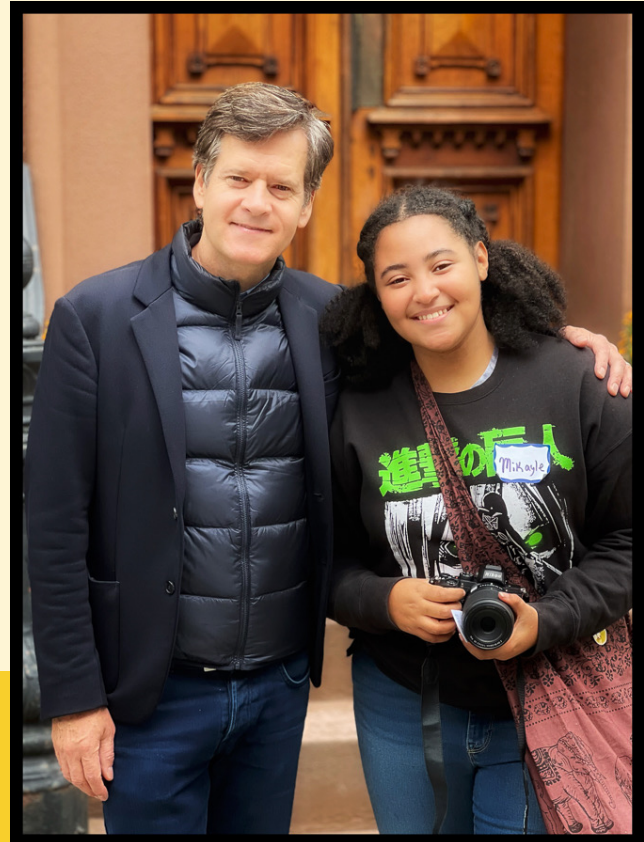


ALEX FUCHS presents her work in a senior show at the Chicago Art Institute.

# AROUND THE STUDIO



# IN THE COMMUNITY



^ WITH **SENATOR**  
**BRAD NOYLMAN**

Our 2nd and 3rd year high school students made portraits for the community at The Longest Table event. 21st street in Manhattan closed and a table was set up down the middle of the street for neighbors to share a meal and create community.



# THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



## ^ PHOTO VOGUE FESTIVAL, MOLESKINE FOUNDATION

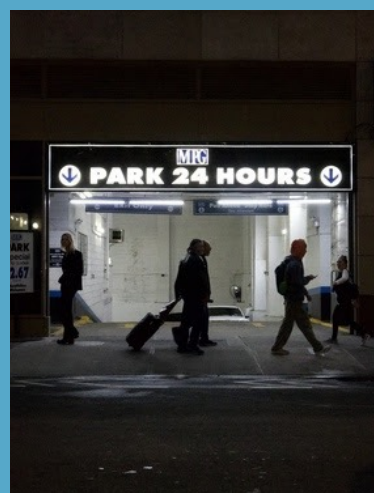
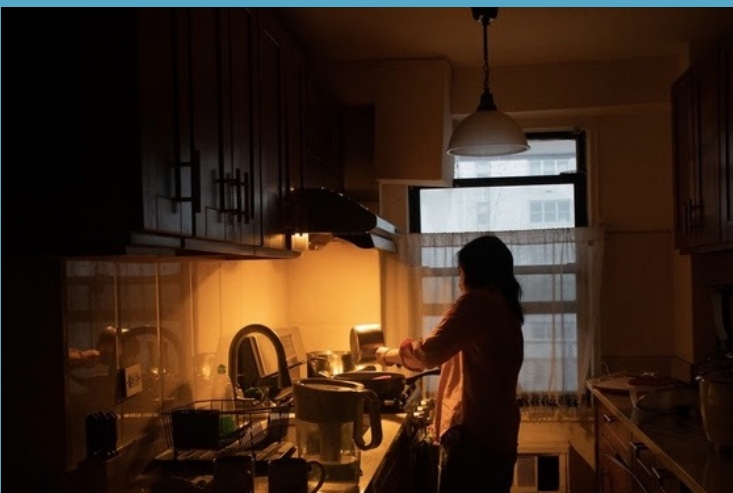
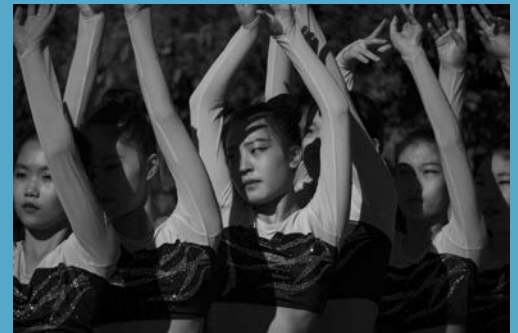
Salt Founder Alicia Hansen is invited to speak at the Photo Vogue Festival in Milan on creativity and social change with Adama Sanneh, president of the Moleskine Foundation.

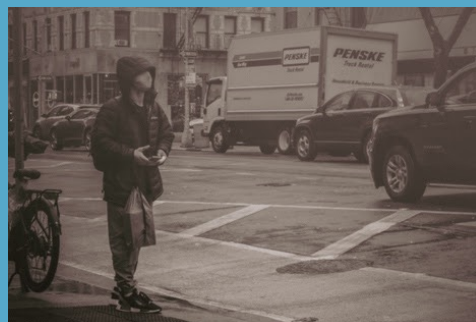
- > Alicia joins nonprofit leaders Erikka James, East Side Girls Club, Joshua Mandelbaum, 826 NYC, and Kamau Ware, Black Gotham Experience for a panel discussion



# STUDENT ARTWORK

Our high school students have little to no photography experience prior to joining our Residency Program. They explore different techniques each class, allowing them to develop technical skills and their unique creative voice.





# STUDENT REFLECTIONS

I'm grateful to get **insight on the professional world of how it is to actually take professional portraits**. It will impact me with **my creativity and ability to network** with others who are likeminded.

– Joel Angel Sebastian

I am grateful for my instructor Adam and **the opportunity to get to take some of my best pictures** and get the best feedback I could. **I'm grateful for all the people I've met** and the lessons I've learned in this photography class.

– Kortney Taylor DeBride

I'm grateful for **my peers supporting me and pushing me to be the best**.

Without their support, I wouldn't be where I am in photography... or growing as a photographer.

– Kayla Hidalgo

I found my passion for photography. I got **outside of my comfort circle and met amazing people**, like my instructor Lauren Welles and her teaching assistant Eliza. Love the Thursday class.

– Sindy Alvarez

I am proud of **showing up to class and committing to Salt**. I am also proud that some days I pushed myself to be more outgoing and not be shy with my camera in public. I am proud that I learned the technical aspects of the camera quickly and understand the concepts. I will continue taking photos and be inspired by others to do so.

– Stella Ross-Gray

I think it's an **amazing gift to be able to understand how to take a photo**. I will now have another art form to express myself, and capture moments. **And I can just be more comfortable with myself and confident, because confidence comes with photography**.

– Inti Owens-Valverde

# STUDENT REFLECTIONS

I am proud of taking the pictures I have taken and getting comfortable getting close to people respectfully. **The experiences helped me be confident in talking with people and connecting with the picture, more than just taking one.** Soon I will become a well-known artist.

– Jordan Martinez

At first, I felt confused because I didn't really know how to do the files and Lightroom. **Now I am enthusiastic and peaceful because I am more used to the environment, computer, and camera.**

– Samantha Lin

I am proud of nailing down how to **make a perfect exposure.** I am grateful for Maddy for being such a good teacher and for JC coming in and teaching us new skills. I'm excited to see where I go with photography.

– Olivia Young

I'm grateful that I found a community of kids my age who enjoy photography, like me. I think it will always remind me to keep pushing and persevere, because the end results will pay off.

– Favor Okonkwo

I'm grateful to have this opportunity to have the space and the proper equipment to take these photos but also **everyone in the studio that was able to offer me guidance.**

– Laura Leong

When we went to Times Square to take photos of light and reflection, **I felt joyful, enthusiastic, and excited because there was so much to look at and photograph, so many ideas popped into my head** and I was excited to try new things with the slow shutter speed.

– Sebastian Pederson

My favorite class was learning about different points of view because of **how impressive and different the same thing can be seen** – everything matters when taking the photo, even the angle from which it is taken.

– María Mercedes Castro Zambrano

