

# ANDREW MROCZEK AND JUANJOSE BARBOZA-GUBO: VIRGENES DE LA PUERTA AND FATHERLAND

By Aline Smithson | February 19, 2016



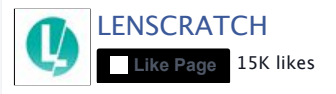
BarbozaGubo/Mroczek, *Nazia*, from the series *Virgenes de la Puerta*, 2015

Today we are featuring two series by collaborative artists [Juan Jose Barboza-Gubo](#) and [Andrew Mroczek](#). With these projects, the artists hope to increase dialog and promote awareness and positive change for LGBTQ communities, especially in Peru, where transwomen are targets for violence, rape, and murder, and have been forced to lead lives on the fringe of Peru's society with minimal opportunities, limited access to education and healthcare, and no laws to protect them.

For the first series, *Virgenes de la Puerta*, many of the images in the series were captured with an 8x10 view camera. The production of these portraits is an important part of the process as Andrew states:

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Juan and I worked closely with many Peruvian artisans in the design and production of the objects used in the images. For example, we worked with a metalsmith who makes crowns for the churches in Peru to make the silver and gold ones we used in our photos, like the one you see in Maricielo's image, and Leyla's as well. And the 25-foot long veil in the image of Leyla was designed by Juan and me in collaboration with a local textile artisan who crocheted the piece by hand. The pink crown in Paola's image was carved by woodworkers from the mountains and we painted the piece in traditional Colonial methods before burning it. It was important for us to surround the women with parts of their culture that were made by the hands of native artisans that have passed down these skills for generations, and it gave us both a better understanding of just how rich and layered their culture is.

The second series, **Fatherland**, examines haunting spaces and landscapes throughout Peru, both rural and urban, where murders or violence against LGBTQ people have occurred.

The McClain Gallery in Houston, Texas is presenting both series in an exhibition titled, **Canon**, which will be in conjunction with the FotoFest 2016 Biennial, opening March 19 and running through May 14, 2016. Also, **Los Chicos** opens at AS220 in Providence, Rhode Island on March 5 running through March 26, 2016.



**Ray Tysdal: The States Project: South Dakota**

February 23rd, 2016



**Jean Laughton: The States Project: South Dakota**

February 22nd, 2016



**Content-Aware: Lauren Wilkins**

February 21st, 2016



**Georgia O'Keeffe: Through the Lens**

February 20th, 2016



**Andrew Mroczek and JuanJose Barboza-Gubo: Virgenes de la Puerta and Fatherland**

February 19th, 2016



**Greta Pratt: A Cloud of Dust**

February 18th, 2016



**Harvey Stein: Briefly Seen - New York Street Photography**

February 17th, 2016



**David Batchelder: Tideland**

February 16th, 2016



**Preston Gannaway: Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea**

February 15th, 2016



**The 2016 Valentine's Exhibition**

February 14th, 2016



**The 2016 Valentine's Exhibition Part 2**

February 14th, 2016



**The 2016 Valentine's Exhibition Part 3**

February 14th, 2016



**Mike Sakasegawa: Sheets: A Love Letter**

February 13th, 2016



**ART + SCIENCE: Richard Ross**

February 12th, 2016



BarbozaGubo/Mroczek, *Paola*, from the series *Virgenes de la Puerta*, 2014

**Juan Jose Barboza-Gubo** (Peru, 1976) received his Bachelor's Degree from Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru. He has received two MFA degrees, one in Painting and one in Sculpture, both from Massachusetts College of Art and Design (graduating with a nomination for the Joan Mitchell Award in 2008). He has had numerous exhibitions in the US, including shows at the Nielsen Gallery; The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University; Chazan Gallery, Providence; The Fitchburg Museum; the Attleboro Museum; and the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center. His work has been featured internationally in galleries and museums in Tokyo, Athens, and Italy, as well as the Cecilia Gonzales Gallery of Lima, Peru. Recent awards of note include first prizes in the 2008 Ceramic Biennial of the New Hampshire Institute of Art, and in 2014, the 78th Regional Exhibition at the Fitchburg Museum. Barboza-Gubo was also named the 2014 Breakout Artist of the Year from Artscope



**ART + SCIENCE:**  
**Sharon Lee Hart**  
February 11th, 2016



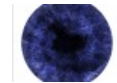
**ART + SCIENCE:**  
**Christopher Colville**  
February 10th, 2016



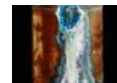
**ART + SCIENCE:**  
**Ariana Page Russell**  
February 9th, 2016



**ART + SCIENCE:**  
**Laura Splan**  
February 8th, 2016



**ART + SCIENCE:**  
**Elizabeth Stone**  
February 7th, 2016



**ART + SCIENCE:**  
**David Maisel**  
February 6th, 2016



**The Lisa Volpe**  
**Mixtape**  
February 5th, 2016



**Toni Pepe: The**  
**Second Moment**  
February 4th, 2016



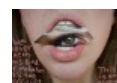
**Tytia Habing: The**  
**Gift**  
February 3rd, 2016



**J.P. Terlizzi: Hunter's**  
**Calling**  
February 2nd, 2016



**Phillip Toledano:**  
**Maybe**  
February 1st, 2016



**Sofia Marcus-Myers:**  
**The States Project:**  
**Oregon**  
January 31st, 2016



**Larry S. Clark: The**  
**States Project:**  
**Oregon**  
January 30th, 2016



**Ray Bidegain: The**  
**States Project:**  
**Oregon**  
January 29th, 2016



**Jake Shivery: The**  
**States Project:**  
**Oregon**  
January 28th, 2016

Magazine. He was awarded the 2015 Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Fellowship in Painting, and the 2016 Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Fellowship in Sculpture. His exhibitions have been reviewed in such publications as *The Boston Globe*, *Artscope Magazine*, *El Comercio*, and many others. Barboza-Gubo currently teaches at Rhode Island College.

**Andrew Mroczek** (USA, 1977) received his BFA in photography from The Art Institute of Boston. He is currently the Associate Director of Exhibitions at The Lesley University College of Art and Design. He has curated solo exhibitions of many artists of note, including; Shen Wei, Dan Estabrook, Luba Lukova, Karen Moss, Robert Stivers, Maud Morgan, Marilene Phipps-Kettlewell, and Juan Jose Barboza-Gubo. Recent curated exhibitions include: *Visible Soul* (2014) an exhibition featuring works by Louise Bourgeois, Carolee Schneemann, Kiki Smith, Arne Svenson, Louis Wain, Andy Warhol, Edward Weston, and many others; and *Of Cuban Invention* (2012), highlighting works by Carlos Cárdenas, Carlos Estévez, Manuel Mendive, José Garcia Montebravo, Luis “El Estudiante” Rodríguez, and Zaida del Río. His exhibitions have been reviewed in *The Boston Globe*, *Art New England*, *Artscope Magazine*, *Big Red & Shiny*, *The Boston Phoenix*, *The Boston Metro*, and *The Weekly Dig*. Mroczek is a member of the Advisory Boards of the Camera Eye Workshops, Somerville, MA; and The Cambridge Arts Council, Cambridge, MA.

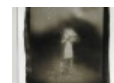


BarbozaGubo/Mroczek, *Janny and Nuria*, from the series *Virgenes de la Puerta*, 2015



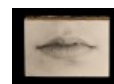
**Grace Weston: The States Project: Oregon**

January 27th, 2016



**Jim Leisy: The States Project: Oregon**

January 26th, 2016



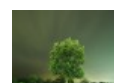
**Heidi Kirkpatrick: The States Project: Oregon**

January 25th, 2016



**Korea Week: Nanda**

January 24th, 2016



**Korea Week: Won-Chul Lee**

January 23rd, 2016



**Korea Week: Sung Seok Ahn**

January 22nd, 2016



**Korea Week: Seung Hee Hong**

January 21st, 2016



**Korea Week: Jeong Lok Lee**

January 20th, 2016



**Korea Week: Seong Youn Koo**

January 19th, 2016



**Korea Week: Myoung Ho Lee**

January 18th, 2016



**Rick Schatzberg: Twenty Two North**

January 17th, 2016



**Shannon Johnstone: Landfill Dogs**

January 16th, 2016



**Lisa McCord: Nancy Sherwood: My Mother's Passing**

January 15th, 2016



**Interview with Nancy Baron: Beautiful Trailer Town**

January 14th, 2016



**Rebecca Webb and Jesse Burke: Sticks of the Sun, Ashes of the Night**

## Virgenes de la Puerta

The series *Virgenes de la Puerta* focuses on the transgender women of Lima who continue to be cast aside by the political and religious administrations. They are consistently denied employment, assistance from government programs, and not given any state or government-issued forms of identification; in essence, they are being marginalized and erased.

We honor the diversity of the Peruvian culture by re-incorporating these transgender women into the cultural landscape and history of Peru. In direct contrast to their oppressor's intentions, our work celebrates the contributions made by transgender people and presents them as iconic figures within the context of their native land. This series of portraits and tableau pays homage to the resilience and beauty of these women in an effort to strengthen, empower, and embed a sense of pride within the current and future generations of Peru's LGBTQ community.

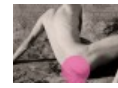


BarbozaGubo/Mroczek, *Gaby*, from the series *Virgenes de la Puerta*, 2014



BarbozaGubo/Mroczek, *Leyla*, from the series *Virgenes de la Puerta*, 2014

January 13th, 2016



**Christa Blackwood:  
Prix West**

January 12th, 2016



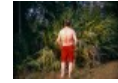
**Jayanti Seiler: Of  
One and The Other**

January 11th, 2016



**Barbara Ciurej &  
Lindsay Lochman:  
The States Project:  
Wisconsin**

January 10th, 2016



**Naomi Shersty: The  
States Project:  
Wisconsin**

January 9th, 2016



**Jon Horvath: The  
States Project:  
Wisconsin**

January 8th, 2016



**Lois Bielefeld: The  
States Project:  
Wisconsin**

January 7th, 2016



**Sonja Thomsen: The  
States Project:  
Wisconsin**

January 6th, 2016



**Tom Jones: The  
States Project:  
Wisconsin**

January 5th, 2016



**Kevin J. Miyazaki:  
The States Project:  
Wisconsin**

January 4th, 2016



**Natascha Seideneck:  
Uncanny Territory**

January 3rd, 2016



**Ken Weingart  
interviews Thomas  
Demand**

January 2nd, 2016

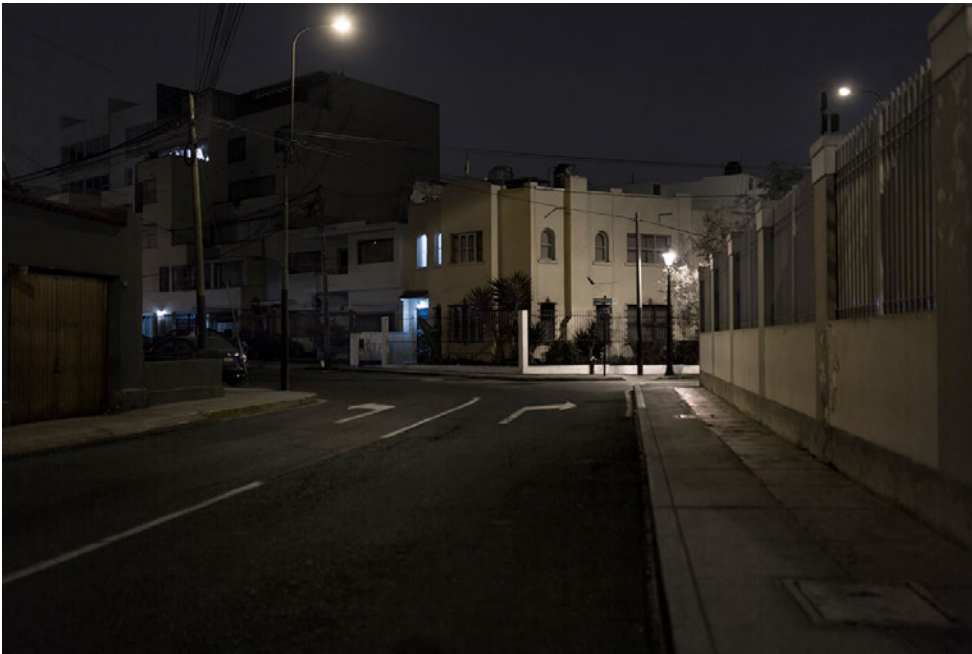


BarbozaGubo/Mroczek, *Maricielo*, from the series *Virgenes de la Puerta*, 2014

### **Fatherland**

*The images of Fatherland reveal the Peruvian landscape as spaces of evidence within the extreme, and rather common, circumstances of violent hate-crimes toward the LGBTQ community, which include rape and murder, as well as domestic violence. While Peru's landscape is often celebrated for its diverse climates and rich cultural history, it also bares the scars of a violence born from patriarchal methodology and an intolerance that permeates its rural neighborhoods, farmlands, public parks, and urban districts.*

*The title of each image indicates the name of the victim and the nature of the assault.*



BarbozaGubo/Mroczek, *Marco Antonio Gallegos Gonzáles, 43 (Gay, Murdered, 2009)*, Bound and gagged, head covered in a plastic bag, strangled. Calle Choquehuanca 193, San Isidro, Lima, Peru, 2015



BarbozaGubo/Mroczek, *Yessica C. (Transgender, Survivor, 2010)* Tied, beaten, gang-raped by four men and sodomized with objects – she was left to die on farmland. Pisco, Ica, Peru, 2015



BarbozaGubo/Mroczek, *Luis Enrique Ramírez Ortiz, 15 (Suicide attributed to bullying, 2013)* Luis, who was thought to be gay, was incessantly bullied by peers and his family, which include the excessive use of anti-gay slurs at school and at home. He endured verbal and physical assaults from his sister, who was reportedly the prime abuser within the home, and who was known to throw urine on him. He hanged himself with a cable from the ceiling rafters in his home on July 22nd, 2013. Las Acacias, San Martín de Porres, Lima, Peru, 2016



BarbozaGubo/Mroczek, *Cristal Celeste Rivera del Águila, 21 (Transgender, Murdered, 2014)* Beaten, stabbed, and raped. She was found face down in a pool of her blood. The odor emanating from her apartment lead to the discovery of her body by neighboring tenants. Gonzales Pavon, Magdalena del Mar, Lima, Peru, 2015





BarbozaGubo/Mroczek, *Kiara Chinchay Leiva, 30 (Transgender, Survivor, 2014)* Kiara was savagely beaten with clubs and rocks by a group of seven men in the area known as Independencia. The beating left her in a coma for 20 days. She lives with permanent damage and scars from the unprovoked attack, which was fully recorded by a nearby surveillance camera. Calle 1 con Los Andes, Independencia, Lima, Peru, 2016



BarbozaGubo/Mroczek, *Luis Fernando Vasquez Roque, 26 (Gay, Murdered, 2010)* Wrists and ankles tied to his bed, strangled. He was found dead by his cousin. Calle Las Paltas 3992, Urbanización Naranjal, Lima, Peru, 2015

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Tags: [Andrew Mroczek](#), [Gender](#), [Identity](#), [JuanJose Barboza-Gubo](#)

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