

LESLIE FRATKIN

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SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

2026

Shortlisted for the Creative Capital Award

Current

Autobiography of a Disease: an in-depth exploration, combining photography, memoir, medical and historical research, and childhood memorabilia, investigating the possibility that the author's multiple sclerosis was triggered by the pollution in her heavily industrialized upstate New York hometown.

2017–Ongoing

Sight Lines: Fleeting stories made in split-second connections, documenting the global diaspora of locals and travelers crisscrossing borderlines: political, societal, cultural, touristic.

2000–2023

The Streets of Chelsea: a three-year street art intervention, combining photographs, posters, and social media, examining the effects of the COVID pandemic and the civic unrest in the author's neighborhood in NYC.

2021

My Neighborhood in COVID: a commission by The New York Foundation for the Arts to transform a block of COVID-proof outdoor dining booths into a large-scale solo public exhibition in Chelsea, NYC.

2017–2022

Living With Disability: a body of work documenting the stories of those living with disability, invisible and physical.

1995–2006

Sarajevo Self-Portrait: The View From Inside, Images and Words by Nine Photographers from Bosnia: a twelve-year bilingual publication and exhibition project featuring the stories of nine photographers surviving the four-year civil war in the 1990s in their besieged hometown, Sarajevo, in former Yugoslavia.

Fratkin wrote the book's introduction, provided additional photography, interviewed and made portraits of the photographers, arranged the project's exhibition tour to several US and European cities, and organized panels and presentations with the project's photographers and with renowned journalists and authors who covered the war; these took place in NYC, Sarajevo, and other cities in Europe. She independently secured all financial backing for the project through dedicated fundraising initiatives.

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the end of the war in former Yugoslavia in 2005, Fratkin arranged a public panel discussion in NYC with Richard Holbrooke, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and architect of the Dayton Peace Accords that ended the war.

NOTE: There is a gap in work of several years, beginning in 2006, due to complications of multiple sclerosis.

ARTIST-INITIATED EXHIBITIONS

2006

Sarajevo Self-Portrait: The View From Inside: an exhibition in Sarajevo, Bosnia, of the works by nine photographers from Sarajevo, Bosnia, curated by Fratkin and photo historian Stuart Alexander, accompanied by public installations of the photographs in the city, and a range of panels and discussions with the project's artists and local dignitaries, held at the National Art Gallery of Bosnia, followed by the donation of the exhibition to the National Gallery's permanent collection.

2005

Sarajevo Self-Portrait: The View From Inside, Images and Words by Nine Photographers from Bosnia: an exhibition in NYC, of the works by nine photographers from Sarajevo, Bosnia, curated by Fratkin and photo historian Stuart Alexander, accompanied by a range of panels and discussions (see project's details, above, for details), held at Peer Gallery, Aperture Foundation, Bard College – NYC Campus, and the New School Tishman Auditorium, NYC.

2002

Sarajevo Self-Portrait: The View From Inside, Images and Words by Nine Photographers from Bosnia: an exhibition in Berlin, Germany, of the works by nine photographers from Sarajevo, Bosnia, curated by Fratkin and photo historian Stuart Alexander, accompanied by a range of panels and discussions, a film series, and a dedicated international media coverage room, held at NGBK Gallery, Berlin, Germany.

2001

Sarajevo Self-Portrait: The View From Inside, Images and Words by Nine Photographers from Bosnia: an exhibition in Copenhagen, Denmark, of the works by nine photographers from Sarajevo, Bosnia, curated by Fratkin and photo historian Stuart Alexander, accompanied by a range of panels and discussions, held at Museet for Fotokunst, Copenhagen, Denmark.

2000

Sarajevo Self-Portrait: The View From Inside, Images and Words by Nine Photographers from Bosnia: an exhibition in Dayton, Ohio, of the works by nine photographers from Sarajevo, Bosnia, curated by Fratkin and photo historian Stuart Alexander, accompanied by a range of public programming, marking the fifth anniversary of the end of the War in Bosnia, held at the Dayton Art Institute, the host city where the Dayton Peace Accords concluded the four-year war in the former Yugoslavia.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2025

Untitled: solo public art photo installation, curated by Rodrigo Guzman-Serrano and Cee Cohen, The Macro Project, Ithaca, NY.

2023

Photovogue Festival: solo public photo installation, curated by the PhotoVogue Foundation, Milan, Italy.

2021

My Neighborhood in Covid: solo public photo exhibition, commissioned by The New York Foundation for the Arts, installed inside a block-long row of COVID-proof outdoor dining booths, West 15th Street, Chelsea, NYC.

2021

The Flag Project: large-scale public exhibition, curated by the Aperture Foundation, Rockefeller Center, NYC.

2003

Other Side of the Street: photo exhibition, curated by Philip Brookman, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Wash., D.C.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, COMMISSIONS, AWARDS

2026: Shortlisted for the Creative Capital Award, NYC
2023: Critics' Choice award and grant; chosen by photo editors from The New Yorker and Time Magazines, NYC
2023: PhotoVogue Foundation; Forty Remarkable Photographers grant, Milan, Italy
2022: LensCulture Foundation; Top Ten Photographers award and grant, London, UK
2021: New York State Foundation for the Arts; commission to create a public exhibition, NYC
2003: The Trust for Mutual Understanding; second fellowship, NYC
2003: Soros Foundation / Open Society Institute; book publishing grant, NYC
2001: Soros Foundation / Open Society Institute; second project grant, NYC
2001: Human Rights Watch; fellowship and sponsorship, NYC
2000: Anonymous patron; Second project grant, NYC
1999: Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation; grant, Los Angeles, CA
1999: The Trust for Mutual Understanding; fellowship, NYC
1998: Anonymous patron; project grant, NYC
1998: Soros Foundation / Open Society Institute; project grant, NYC
1997: Soros Foundation / Open Society Institute; fellowship, NYC

PRESENTATIONS

2015
Presentation of photography and studio visits with art students, the University of Michigan Penny Stamps School of Art and Design, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

2011
Presentation of photography and talks with art students and faculty, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

2005
Presentation and discussion about the making of the bilingual publication, *Self-Portrait: The View from Inside, Images and Words by Nine Photographers from Bosnia*, BuyBook bookstore, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2001
Created a panel discussion featuring five of the photographers from the *Sarajevo Self-Portrait: The View from Inside* project alongside five renowned American photojournalists at the Aperture Foundation, Chelsea, NYC.

2001
Created a panel discussion featuring seven renowned international journalists and authors who reported on the wars in former Yugoslavia at Bard College – NYC Campus, NYC.

2001
Created a panel and Q & A featuring Richard Holbrooke, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and Architect of the Dayton Peace Accords that ended the war in former Yugoslavia, at the New School Tishman Auditorium, NYC.

2001
My Sarajevo Story, a website of the author's photographs and her memoirs about her experiences in Bosnia, produced by National Geographic, Washington, D.C.

2000
Book presentation and discussion of *The View from Inside, Images and Words by Nine Photographers from Bosnia* project at the Barnes & Noble Book Store, Greenwich Village, NYC.

2000

Website about *The View from Inside, Images and Words by Nine Photographers from Bosnia*, produced by The Washington Post, Washington, D.C.

2000

Wrote and self-published the book *The View from Inside, Images and Words by Nine Photographers from Bosnia*. Interviewed and made portraits of the featured photographers and provided additional photography. Invited Tom Gjelten, National Public Radio International Correspondent, to write the book's introduction, and Lesley A. Martin, former Creative Director of Aperture Foundation, to be the book's editor and producer.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2021

On-camera Interview on Channel 1 TV NYC and in various NYC newspaper articles, about the transformation of a block of COVID-proof outdoor dining booths into a large-scale solo public exhibition, as commissioned by the New York Foundation for the Arts, NYC.

2005

Published the Bosnian language edition of "*The View from Inside, Images and Words by Nine Photographers from Bosnia*", translation by Tamara Seric, Sarajevo, Bosnia.

2001

Book review in Publishers Weekly, *The View from Inside, Images and Words by Nine Photographers from Bosnia*.

2001

Book Review in Kirkus Reviews, *Sarajevo Self-Portrait: The View from Inside, Images and Words by Nine Photographers from Bosnia*.

1996

Wrote and photographed the article, *A Wild Ride in Australia's High Country* for The Washington Post, Washington, D.C.

1996

Wrote and photographed the article, *Trotting Through Tuscany* for The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California.

COLLECTIONS

The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Museet for Fotokunst, Copenhagen, Denmark

Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, California

National Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Soros Foundation / Open Society Institute, NYC

Steven Spielberg, Los Angeles, CA

EDUCATION

1980: B.A. Rhetoric and Communications; The State University of New York, Albany, New York.

1980 – Present: self-taught photographer, writer, and multimedia project creator and manager; NYC, Australia, Amsterdam and other cities in Europe and in former Yugoslavia.