

Bio

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A New York native, I've spent the last few decades calling Los Angeles home. I grew up looking at Life and Look magazines, influenced by documentary style photography. The photograph of John-John under JFK's desk taken by Stanley Tretick has always been a favorite.

My father would work late in the city and where my father's plate would be at the dinner table, we put a small black & white TV. Not much talking went on at the dinner table. Children should be seen and not heard was the norm. I became the observer in a 2-family house that housed 6 children.

I may not have been able to have a voice but no one could stop me from watching... so my eyes became a camera.

When asked what I wanted for my birthday or holidays I always asked for one thing. A camera and 10 rolls of film.
I never got it.

I finally bought myself a camera when I left home at 18 years old.

An artist that I recently met made the comment that my eye was so practiced by the time I started shooting because "looking" was my way of communication.

I have been told that I make some people uncomfortable with my gaze. I believe I learned that from my mother who, after waiting for me to be born after 5 years, never took her eyes off of me! Children do learn by imitation and that gaze became part of my behavior. That gaze got me into trouble in grade school as I stared curiously at the tough kids - taking in all their differences. This "staring" problem had repercussions and I remember my mother having to go to school on my behalf on 4 separate occasions. I was one of the first female engineers to work in the male-dominated broadcast market in Los Angeles in the late 70's. That was interesting as mostly all of my co-workers literally had real war stories to tell! I moved around in that world ending up in TV news production for 20 years where I won the L.A. Press Association award for continuity. In the late 80's, I was a contributor to the LA Reader and shot over 25 stories.

To read more about my work go to:

<http://www.lauriefreitag.com/artist-statements-portfolio>

Member: Los Angeles Center of Photography, The Lucie Foundation, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, INFOCUS/Phoenix Art Museum (PAM), & Photographic Resource Center at Boston University & The Center for Fine Art Photography (CO).

Founder: L.A. Photo Curator www.laphotocurator.com

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