

Beyond Criminal

Fogartyville - January 11, 2016, 6:30pm-10pm



Attica Gun Turret 2015, Bruce Jackson Photograph

ATTICA 1971/ATTICA 2015

The photographs of New York's Attica prison in this exhibit were made on two separate days, some on September 13, 1971; the others on May 13, 2015.

The older ones were made by State Police photographers. They took them during the bloody retaking of the prison, following a prison uprising that began four days earlier. The shooting was ordered by then-Governor Nelson Rockefeller; who was contemplating a third run for president and who worried about charges that he was soft and liberal.

Negotiations were still going on; there was no need for the shooting (which resulted in the deaths of 10 hostages and 29 prisoners) or the several days of torture that followed.

The day of the shooting, a prison official told reporters that all 10 dead hostages had been killed by convicts, who had slit their throats, and that some hostages had been castrated by convicts. None of that was true. Two days later, a coroner said no one died from slit throats: the hostages had all been killed by police bullets. No one had been castrated.

There were criminal prosecutions of convicts three years later. They resulted in a single conviction. When the grand jury wanted to indict a state trooper for shooting out the eyes of mortally-wounded Kenneth Malloy, Governor Hugh Carey halted all prosecutions.

No one-save the two defendants in that one conviction-ever served a day for the villainy at Attica prison in September 1971.

The prisoners filed a civil rights suit, which finally came to court in 1991. It was the longest-running civil rights suit in American history.

The Stat's copies of these photographs were briefly in the possession of the prisoners' lawyers during discovery. I made copies for the legal team and a set for me. The prints in this exhibit are enlargements of scans of those discovery prints, hence a long way from the originals. No one knows (or admits to knowing) where the negatives or color slides are, or who took them.

The 2015 images in this exhibit were taken by me during a three-hour visit to the prison on May 13, 2015. I was accompanied by a guard at all times. I was not allowed on the roof positions from which the shooters (State Police, deputy sheriffs, prison guards, and even a gam warden) poured gunfire into D-yard through a dense fog of tear gas. Neither was I allowed into the solitary/punishment block or the block where the prison houses psychiatric prisoners recently moved there from state hospitals in an economy move. There were other places we couldn't go, all because of "security." During the three hours, I saw only a few dozen convicts. I don't know where they were parked while I was there with my camera.

One convict in the machine shop said, when my escort was distracted, "You're not seeing the real Attica. Nobody from outside sees the real Attica. You're seeing the candy-Attica." I thought he was right.

A few months earlier, two Attica guards had been indicted on felony charges for brutally beating a convict. They broke his eye-socket and both legs. It was the first time, to my knowledge, that a New York prison guard was indicted on a felony charge for savage brutality. At trial, they pled guilty to a vague misdemeanor and walked out of court without even a fine. They got to keep

Beyond Criminal - Contributing Artists

Bruce Jackson - Photographs, *Attica Then and Now*

SUNY Distinguished Professor and James Agee Professor of American Culture at University at Buffalo. He began his photographic work while Junior Fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows. He is the author of more than 30 books and, with his wife Diane Christian (a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor) director of six films. He was nominated for a Grammy and awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. He has had 15 solo exhibits and been part of many group exhibits, including the 2014 Venice Biennale. He work is in the permanent collections of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, George Eastman House, Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Library of Congress, and other organizations. His most recent books are *Inside the Wire: Photographs from Texas and Arkansas Prisons* (University of Texas Press, 2013) and *Being There: Bruce Jackson, Photographs 1962-2012* (Burchfield Penney Art Center, 2013). <http://www.brucejackson.us> <http://www.brucejackson.com>

Nicholas Quinn Serenati - Multi Media Installation

<http://www.nqserenati.com>

Dr. Serenati holds a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies (Union Institute & University), and an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts (Goddard College). Dr. Serenati serves as Art Director of the Cinematic Arts program at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, and Professor of Film and Media Studies at Flagler College. Dr. Serenati's recent project, *Illness is a Window: Refraining Leukemia through Dharma Art*, will be presented at the 6th Global Conference on Trauma: Theory and Practice in Budapest, Hungary (2016).

Lori Loveberry-George - Mixed Medium Mug Shot Portraits

<http://www.loveberryart.com>

Lori holds a BA in Visual Arts with Distinction from Eckerd College, St Petersburg, Florida; a Certification with Honors from Ringling School of Art and Design, Sarasota, Florida; and attended Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Brandon Scott - Gouache on Coldpress Paintings

<http://www.brandonscottart.com>

Brandon Scott was born in Long Island, New York of Lithuanian descent. Growing up in a large city inspired him in his use of colors. This defines his vivid dream like style. Brandon fell in love with the community driven art scene of NYC. He later relocated to the amazing art community of Bradenton, FL in 1987

In January and July 2014 he was asked to display in the Leonardo Da Vinci museum, which is on loan from Florence Italy.

Beyond Criminal - Panelists

discussing prison reform, rehabilitation vs. incarceration, and the death penalty for and against.

Adam Tebrugge spent 23 years at the Public Defender's Office where worked as the lead homicide attorney from 1990-2008. A fierce client advocate, Tebrugge served on the Death Penalty Steering Committee of the Florida Public Defender Association for over a decade. Tebrugge has hosted and co-produced the television show "Law and Sarasota" which has been aired on The Education Channel in Sarasota County since 2005. Tebrugge is currently a staff attorney with the ACLU of Florida. <http://www.tebruggelegal.com>

Barbara Richards, MS is the Founder and Director of Project 180. A former Adult Basic Education and GED teacher in the San Francisco County Jail system, Barbara came to Florida to study for her Master of Science Degree in Criminology & Criminal Justice from 2004 to 2006 at The Florida State University. Barbara founded Project 180 to create better life options for offenders, particularly in the field of education. <http://www.project180reentry.org>

Harriet Hendel taught children with learning disabilities for thirty years in New York State. As a volunteer, she also taught creative writing in a men's maximum-security prison in upstate N.Y. She currently corresponds with sixteen men and women incarcerated in prisons all over the United States and visits six inmates on a regular basis. In addition, she is on The Innocence Project of Florida Board of Directors, and volunteers for Project 180. <http://www.floridainnocence.org>

Silent Auction

Proceeds from a silent auction of Professor Jackson's work benefit Project 180. Please contact Barbara Richards, Founder and CEO, Barbara@project180reentry.org

Many Thanks to:

Fogartyville Volunteers

Panelists & Artists

Pamela Callender, Art Curator Dale Bombardier, Installation
David Beaton, Sound Engineer Arlene Sweeting, Director

Coming Up... Thursday, February 11

Please join us for a presentation about the Peace Education Program (PEP) soon to run at Sarasota County Jail. Speaker, Patricia Kromer shares her longtime experience directing this program at Lowell CI with film, slide show, and discussion. www.tprf.org