

PARADISE

TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

WE WILL BE BACK

THE
CITY
2020



حفظوا

The photographs in this book were produced by students in the "Visual Storytelling: Advanced Documentary" class in the fall of 2020 at the University of California Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Ken Light, the Reva & David Logan Professor of Photojournalism, was the faculty advisor.

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The City

2020



2020 is the year of our time. It is a year of deep change, a manifestation of what ails us as a society. From protests over racial injustice to the reshaping of our society due to Covid-19, nowhere are these elements more diverse and fractured than in our cities. And nowhere are the silver linings more acute. Pain and turmoil often create impetus for change. Even as cities from Oakland, California, to Grand Rapids, Michigan have suffered economic and social upheaval, artists have transformed the underused spaces, sidewalls, and plywood window coverings across the city into works of art. 2020 has been a year of transformation, turmoil, and a testament to our individual and collective resilience and spirit.

The UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism photographers featured in this book have taken on a monumental task: to document life in the American city in 2020 during an unprecedented global pandemic.

Our visual journey begins with familiar Bay Area vignettes of bridges, tunnels, and the seemingly endless traffic. And then, as the city itself gradually comes into clearer focus, we see the masks and other symbols of this time infiltrating what was once a familiar urban landscape. Buses and other forms of transportation have become windows to this changing landscape, as photographer Cheyenne Tex shows with her portraits of commuters inside their cocoons, and her gritty street-level vignettes. And Clara Mokri captures the strong interplay of light and shadow in San Francisco's Chinatown, one of the most storied and traditional neighborhoods in the city.



In our cities, communities have rallied together for common purpose, whether for the simple pleasures of fresh air and human (and often animal) company. Masks have become equal parts fashion and political statement, and supporting one's favorite local business has deeper resonance as more people order from home. David Sekiranda's photographs document how the Bay Area's precious public parks serve a dual purpose of leisure and solidarity, while Imran Ali Malik's show rollerskaters, DJs and food vendors occupying an underused space under an Oakland freeway. And in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Stephanie Penn captures the day-to-day reality in a midwestern city.

From coast to coast we also see the power of murals and other works of art, both static and performative, rooted in social justice to provide a voice for the voiceless. In San Francisco's Castro District, Yuriria Avila spent nights documenting transgender performers' playful and provocative acts to bring attention to their marginalized community.

Our relationships with each other and our built environment have undoubtedly shifted over the last year. But the fundamentals - the human need for social connection, community, and entertainment - remain steadfast.

But all is not well. Our streets still lay bare the pain of our socioeconomic political decisions. Homeless encampments line every overpass, and idle cars and RVs stuffed with sleeping bodies and toys and other material possessions no longer give many of us pause. In the Bay Area, the wealthiest part of the wealthiest nation in the world, the human misery on our streets is testament to our economic and moral failings. We see it in our streets, through our windows, and in places of leisure. Daniel Roman captures the Bay Area's severe disparity in the most consumerist of spaces, the suburban shopping mall. As crowds window browse, considering their upcoming Christmas purchases, an unseen underclass wipes down dining tables and stairwells. Nick Burt's intimate portraits, meanwhile, reveal the struggles and the dignity of housing insecure residents in Oakland. Further afield, in Harrisburg, PA, Ying Zhao opens her shutter to document a region that continues to struggle economically decades after deindustrialization.





And in the early fall, wildfires in California created a toxic blend of smoke and ash above the Bay Area over several days, heightening our collective anxiety around climate change and the environment. As the fires raged miles away, photographer David Rodriguez braved the unhealthy air conditions to document the striking and eerily beautiful toxic sky in and around Oakland.

And through all of this, looming large over our social and political landscape, was the contentious 2020 presidential election. Its portents were all around us, in signs and even face masks urging people to vote; in our front yards and on our walls in the form of political slogans; in the mail-in-ballot boxes and in the endless pieces of mail, social media posts, and tv ads. And finally, in the countless lines to the voting booths on election day itself.

2020 may very well be the year we all wish to forget. But it was also a test of our resolve, our essential values, and how we wish to see our society move forward in the years to come. We often wonder what we will remember 10 years from now, as we look back at this momentous year in history. This book is an ambitious and humble record of what came to pass in some of our nation's most dynamic and representative urban areas.

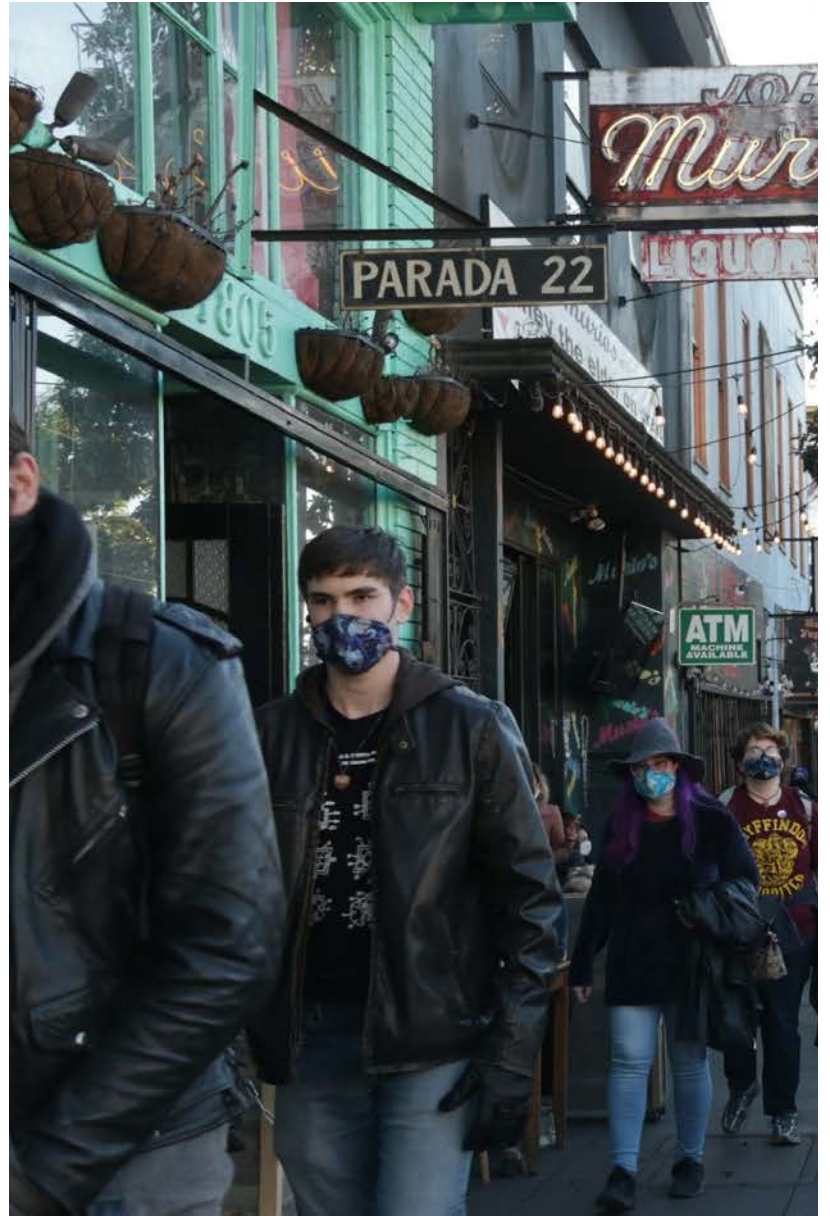
Brett Marsh ('21)



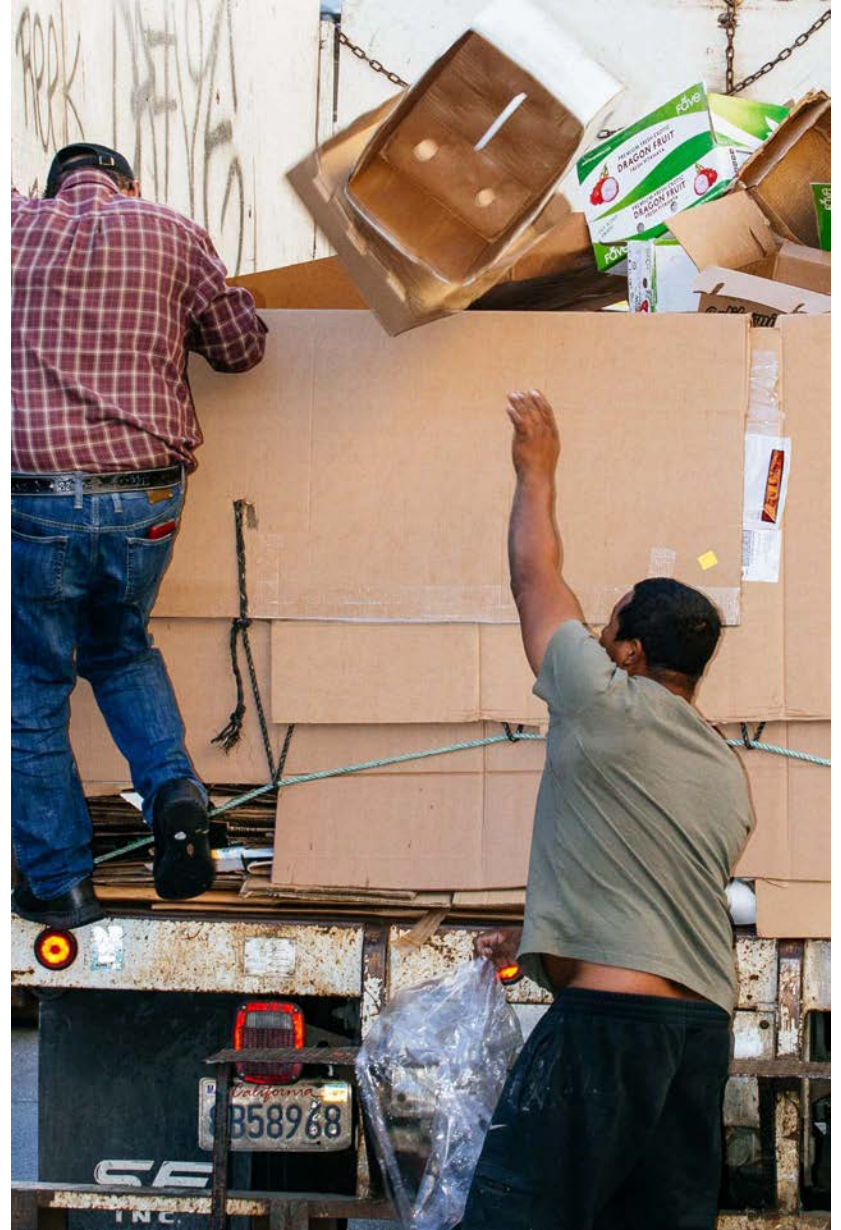
















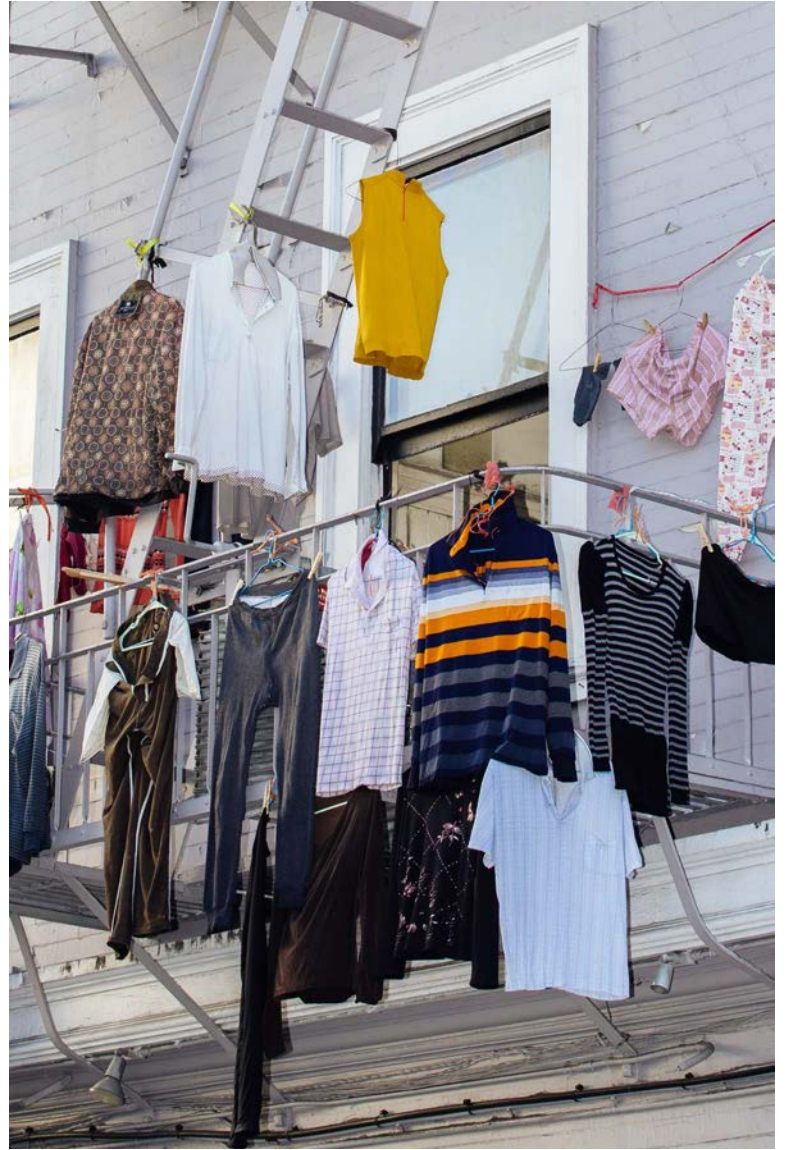
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PARAMOUNT

TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

WE WILL BE BACK



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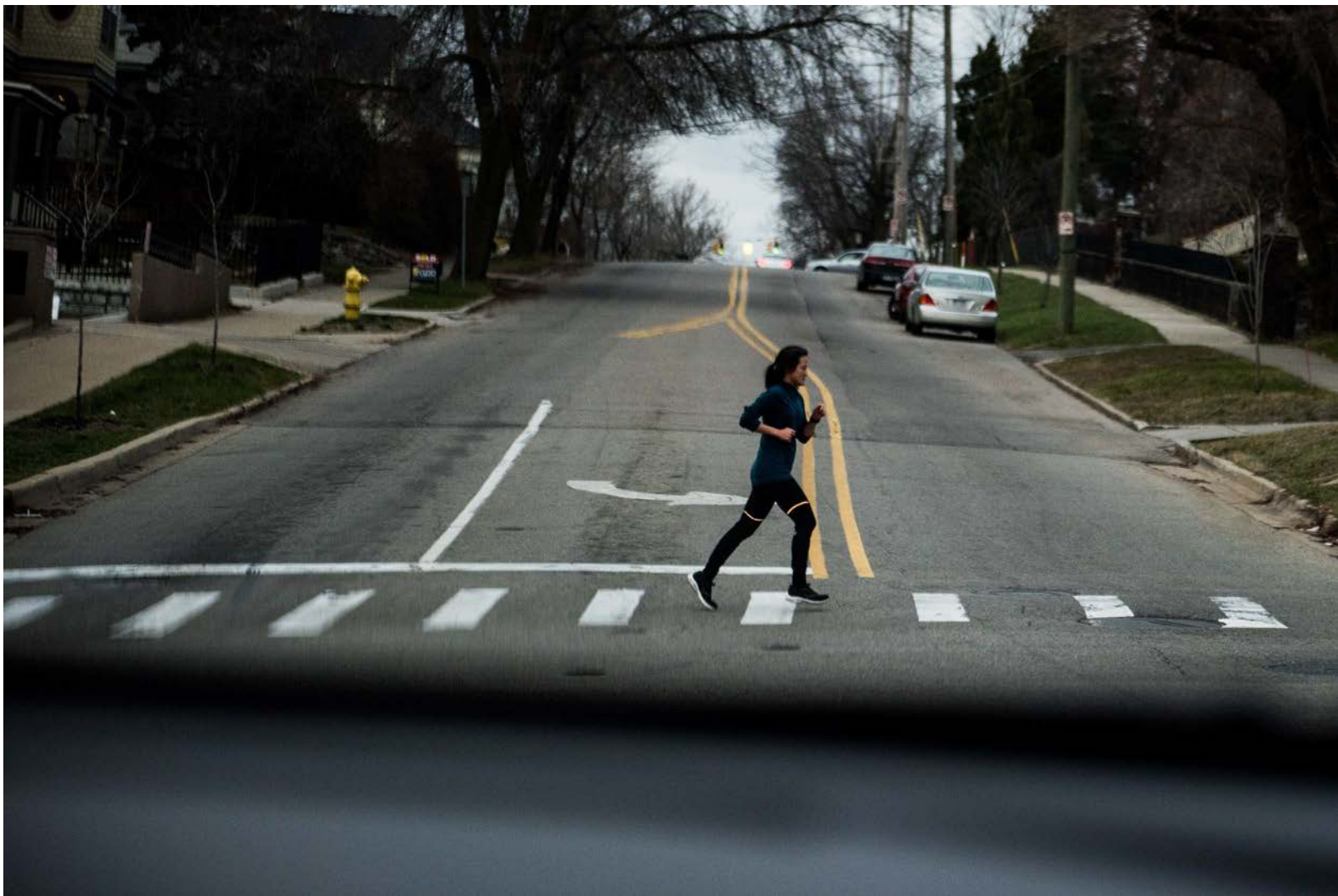






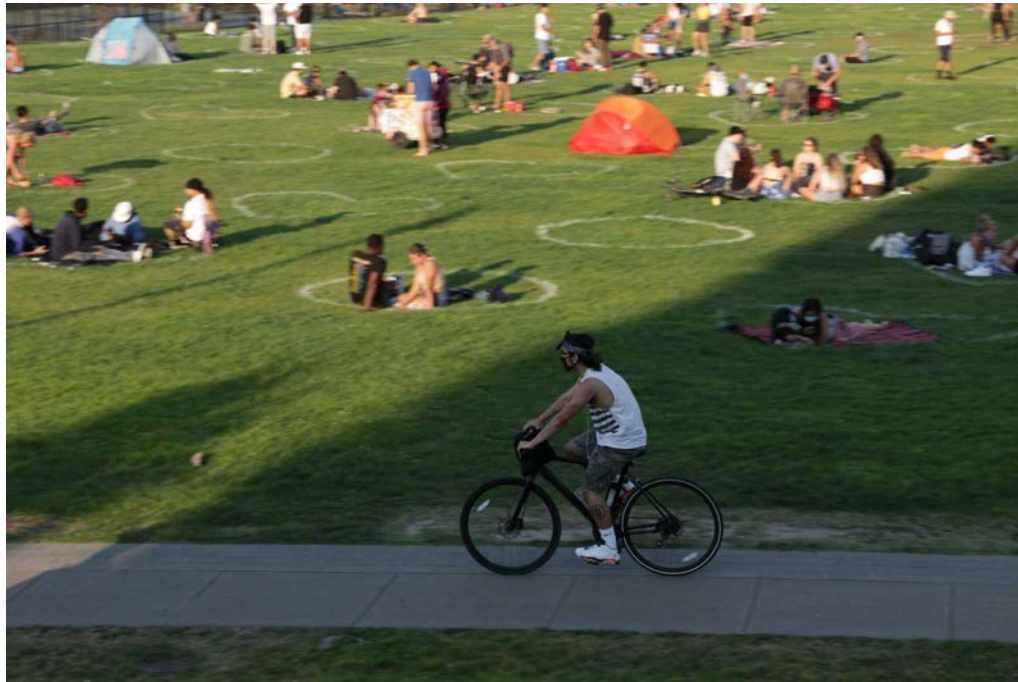










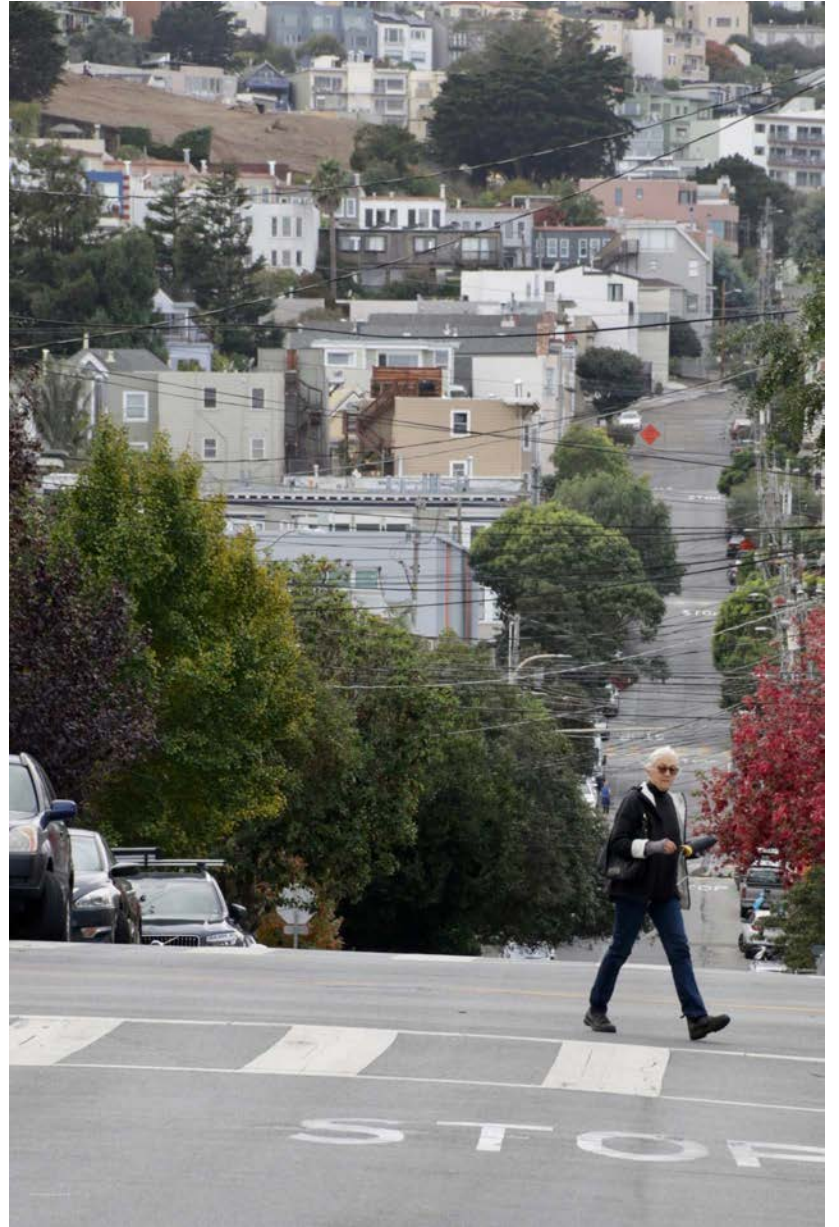












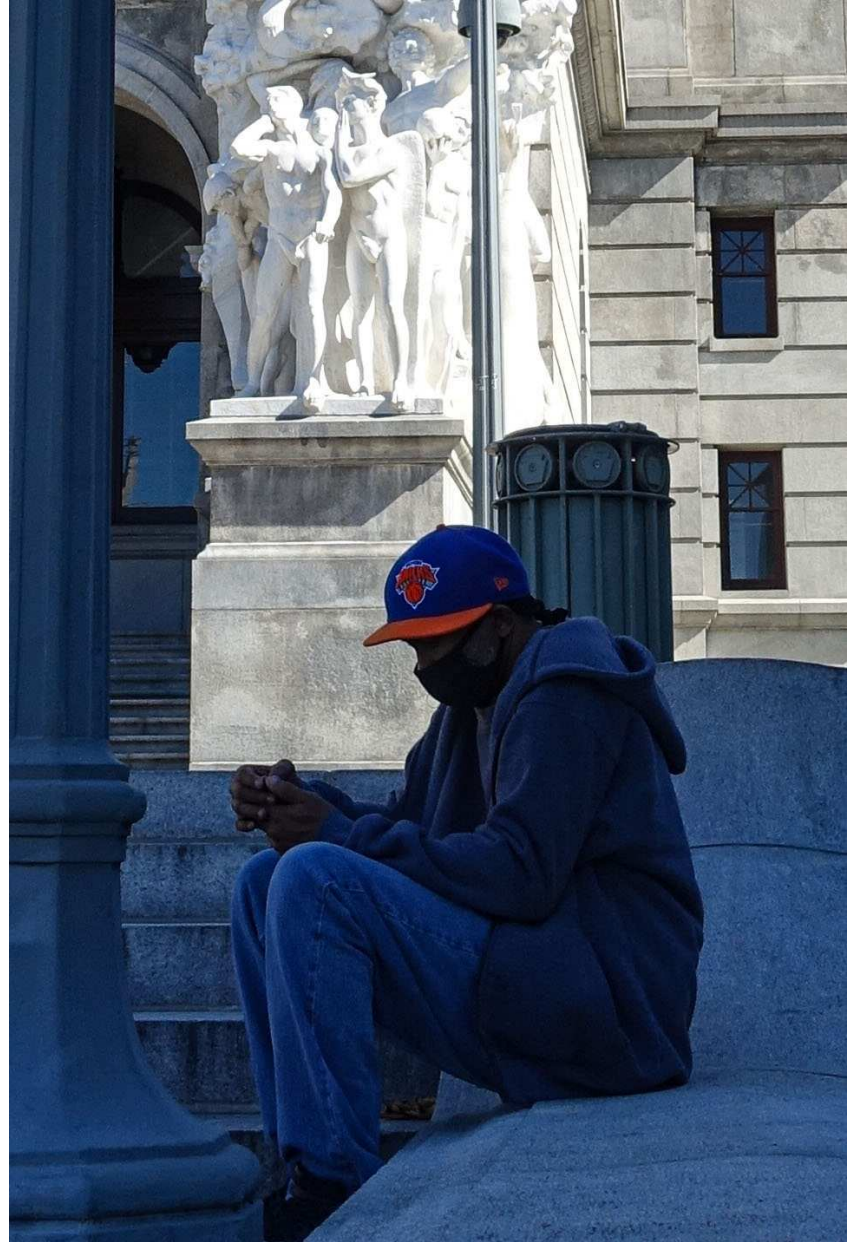












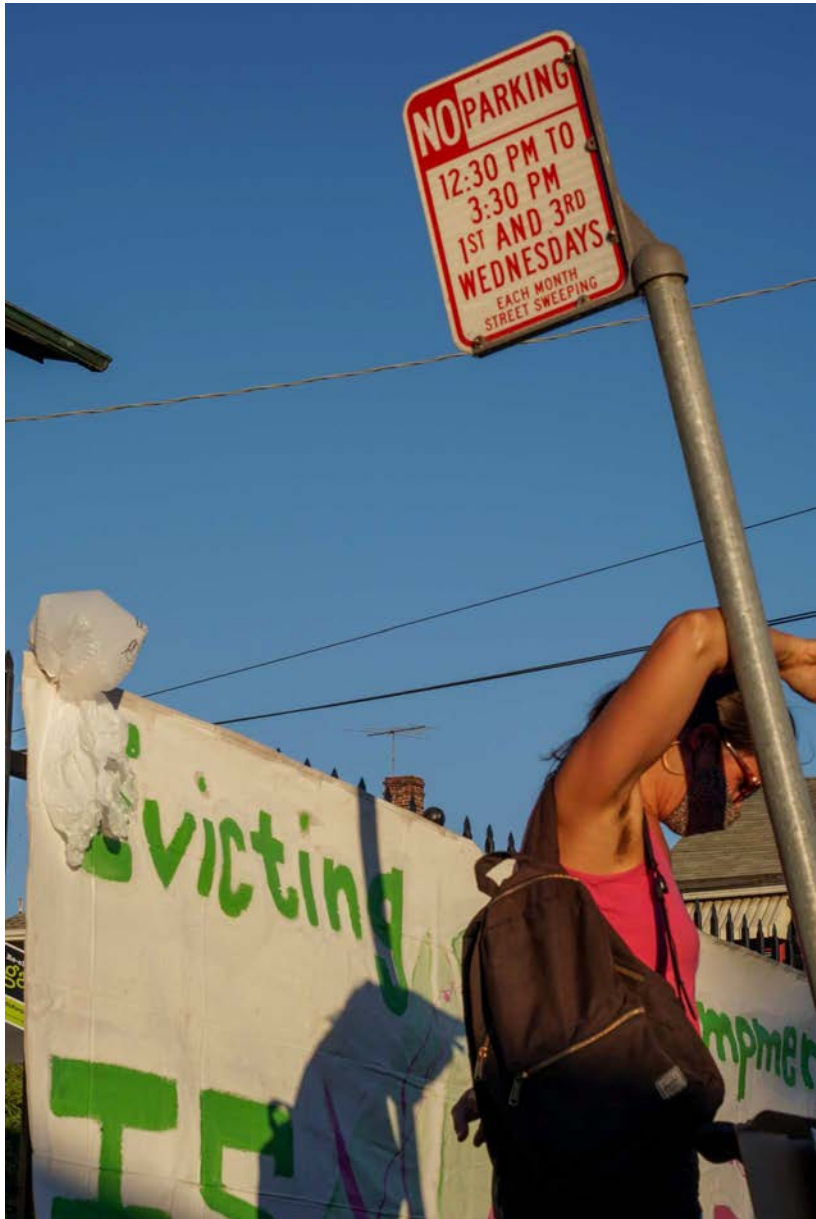






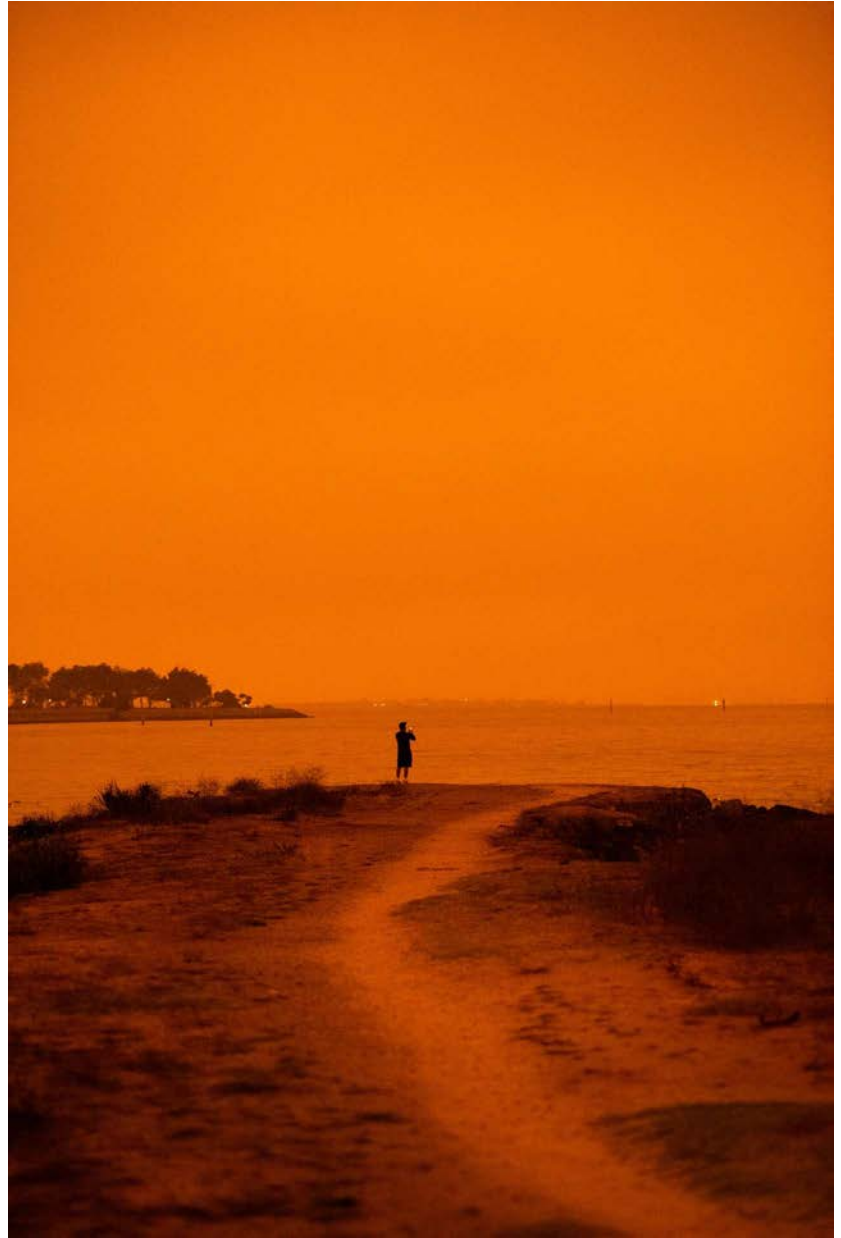






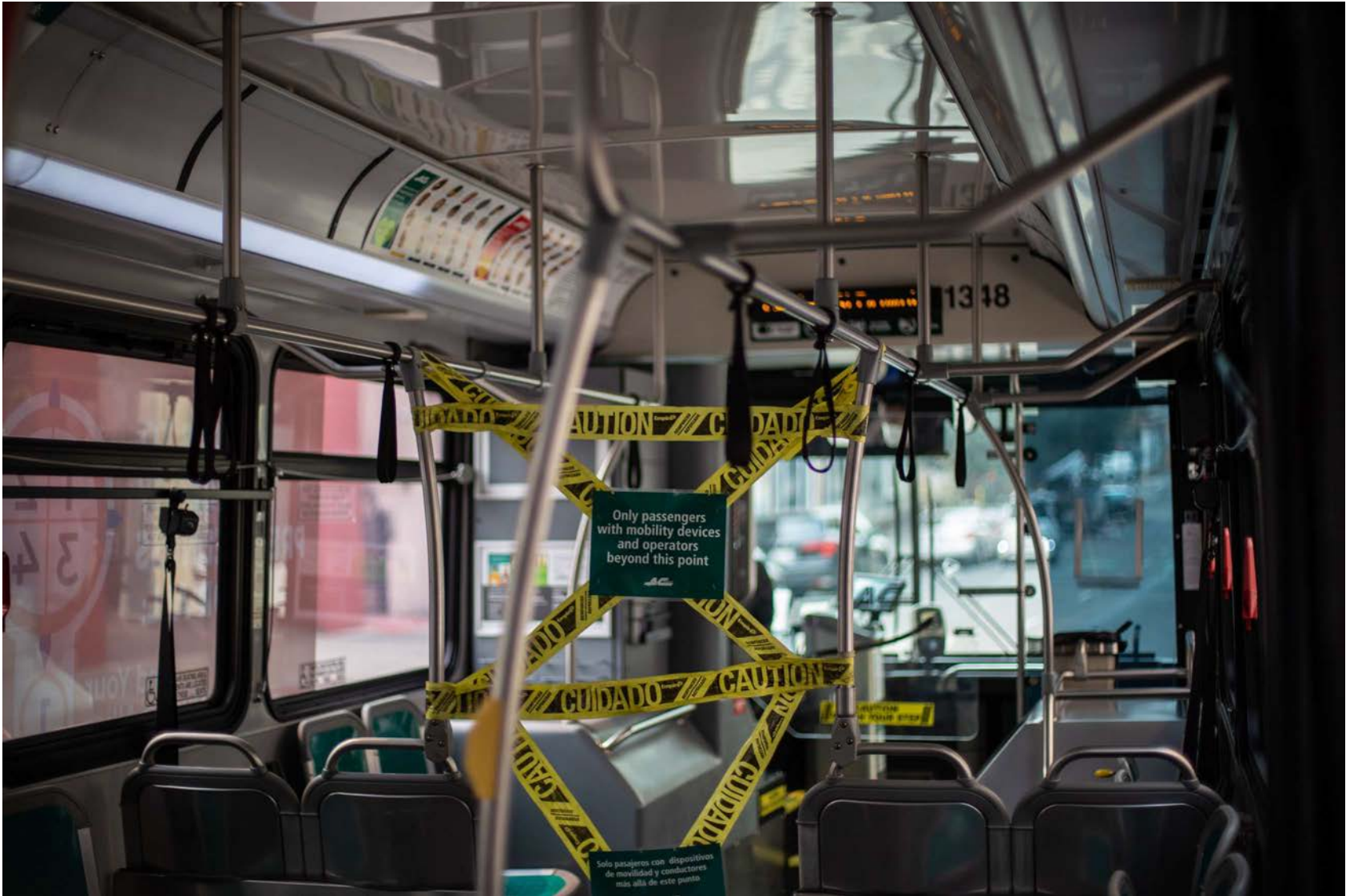


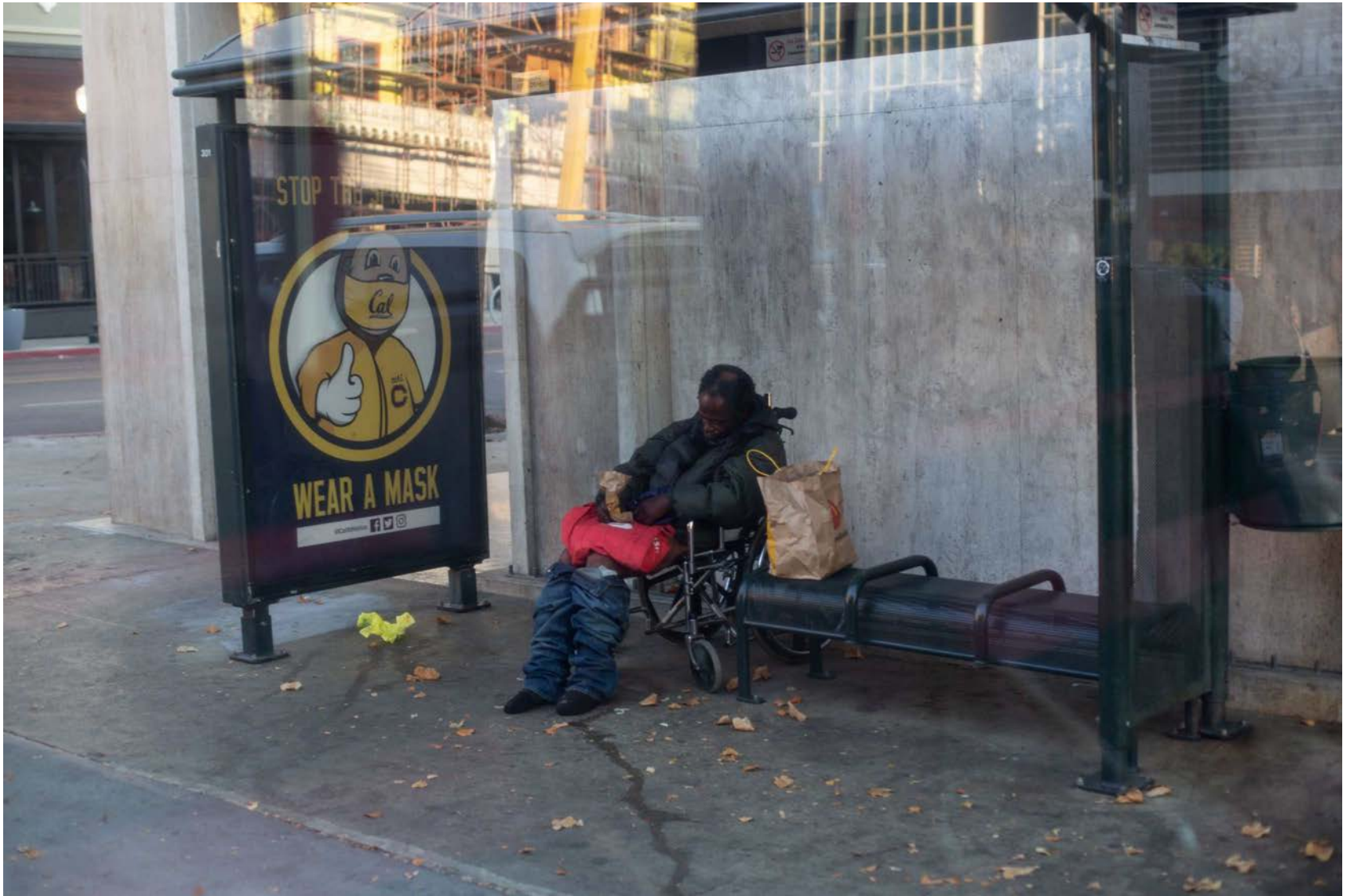




















THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE
TELEVISED. YOU CANT PLUG IN, THERE WILL BE NO SHOOTING REPLAY
AND THERE WILL BE NO DOWN CAUSE STREET
PICTURES OF INSTANT BE IN THE BRIGHTER DAY
BROTHERS. THERE WILL BE NO THERE'S
BLACK PEOPLE WILL BE NO
LOOKING FOR A BRIGHTER DAY
THERE WILL BE NO THERE'S
THE REVOLUTION WILL BE LIVE.

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-GIL
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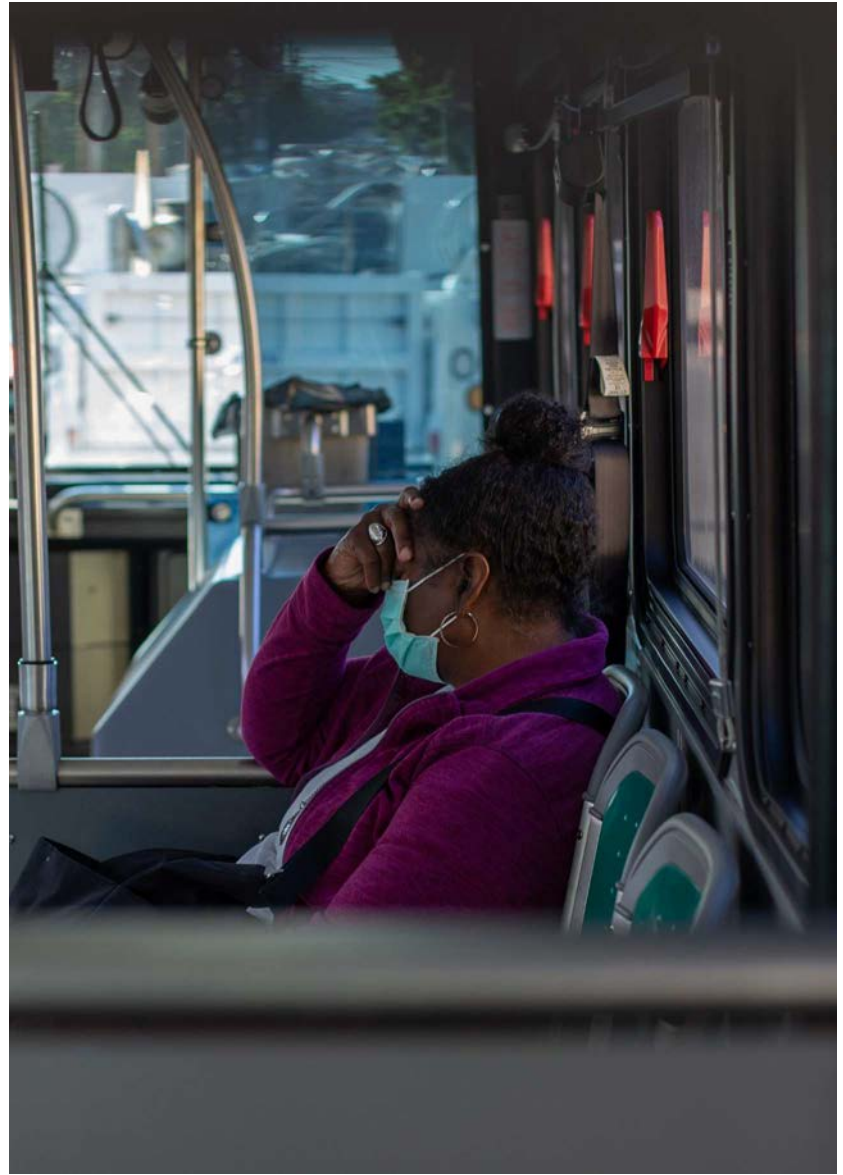




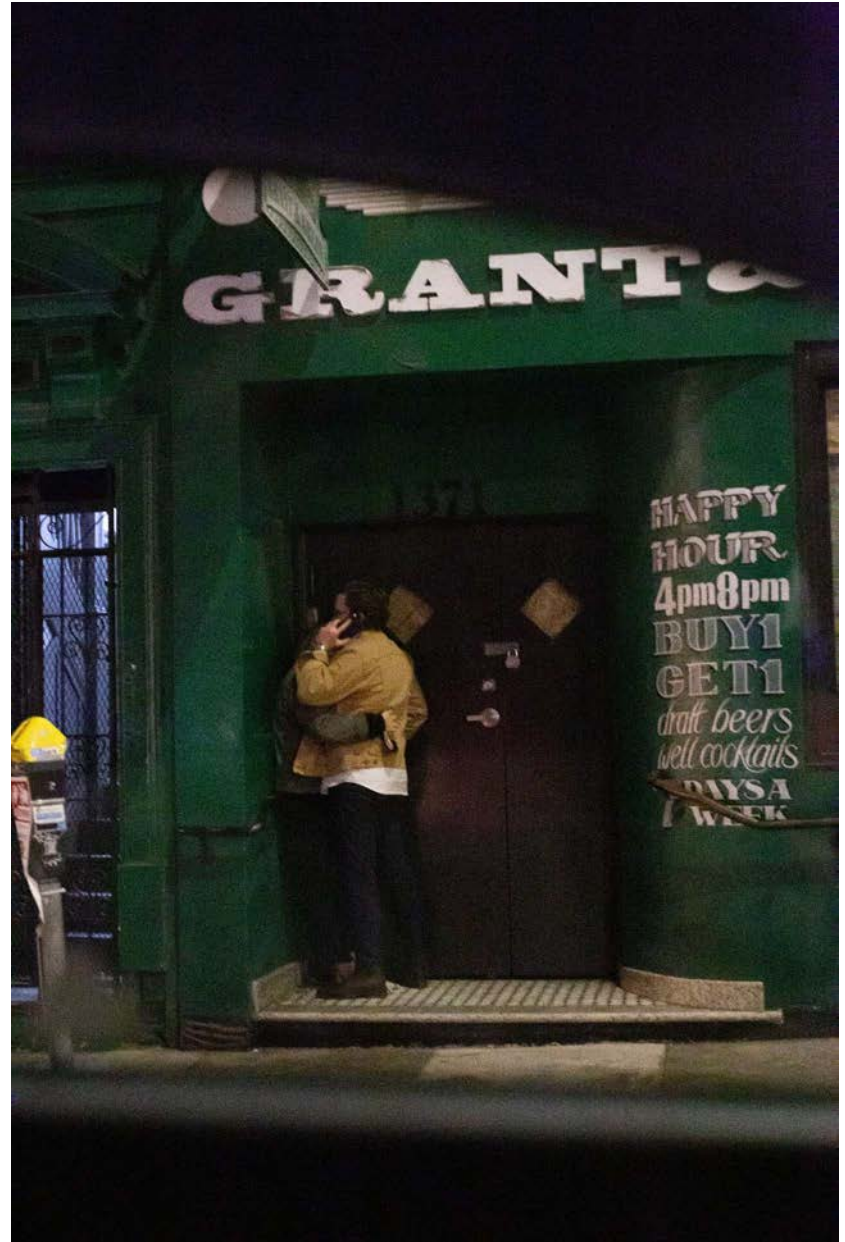














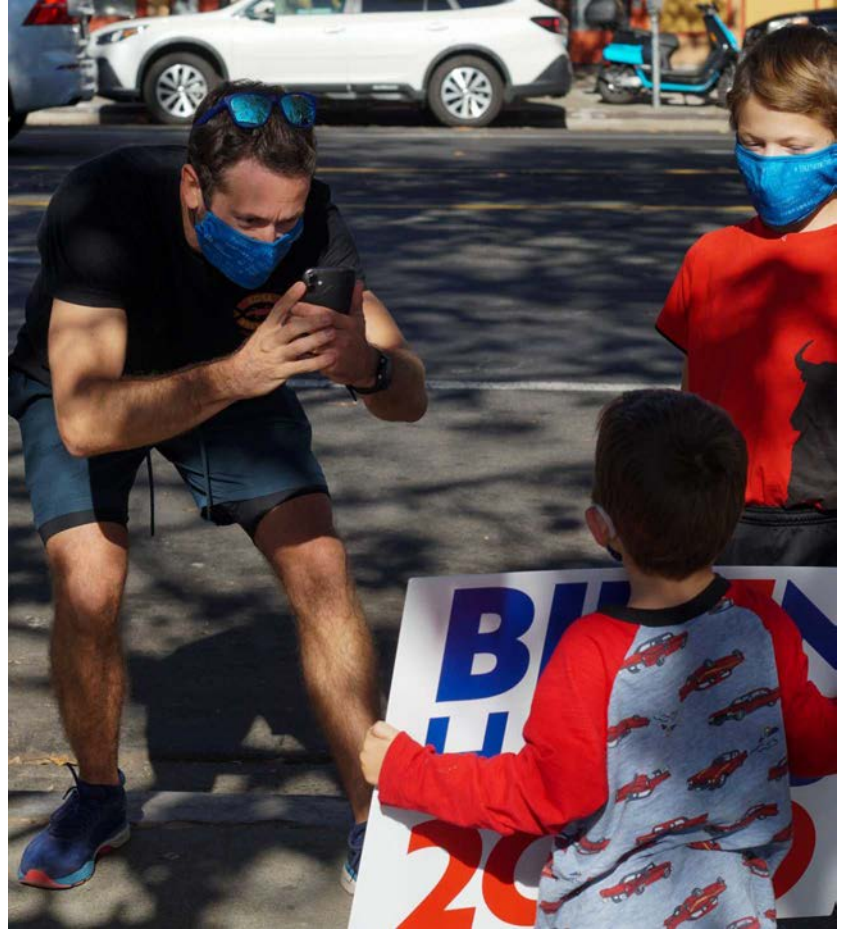












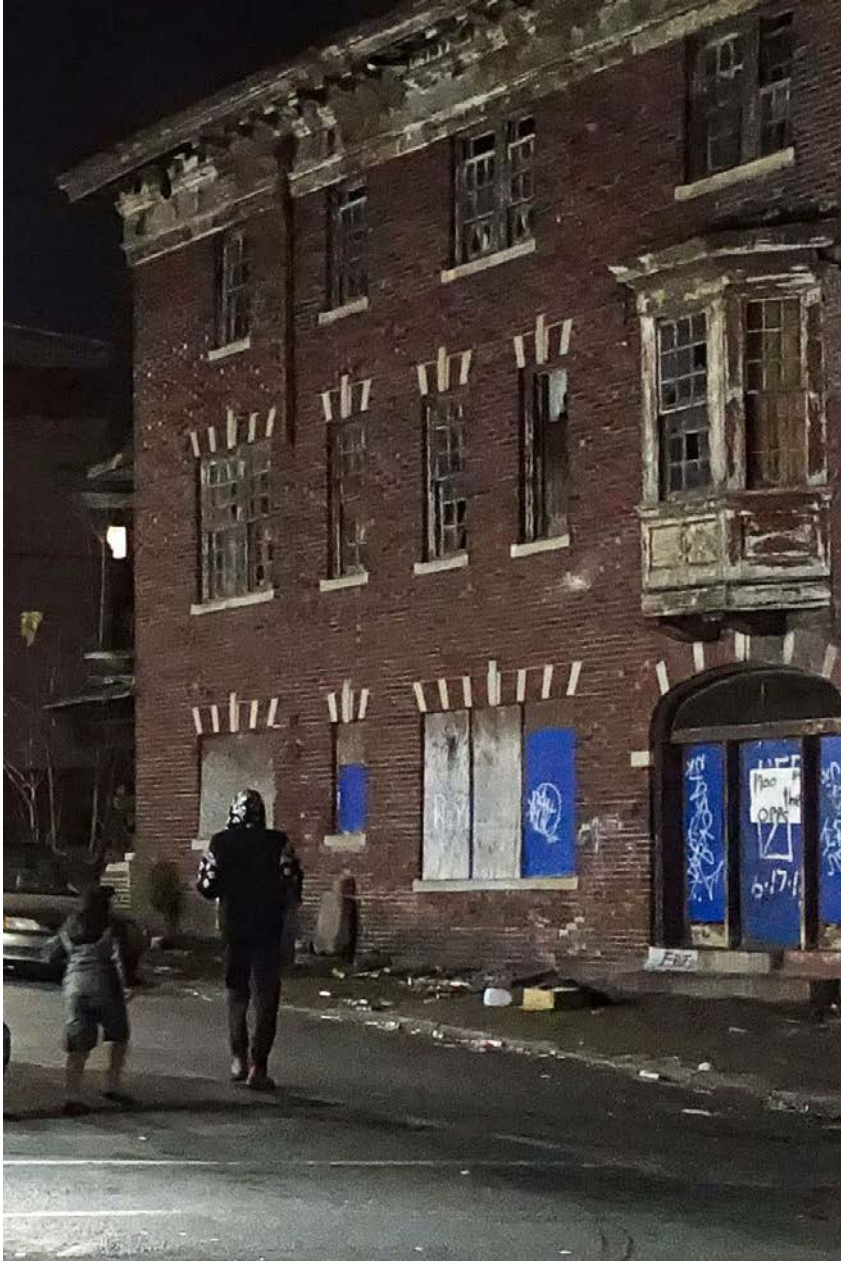




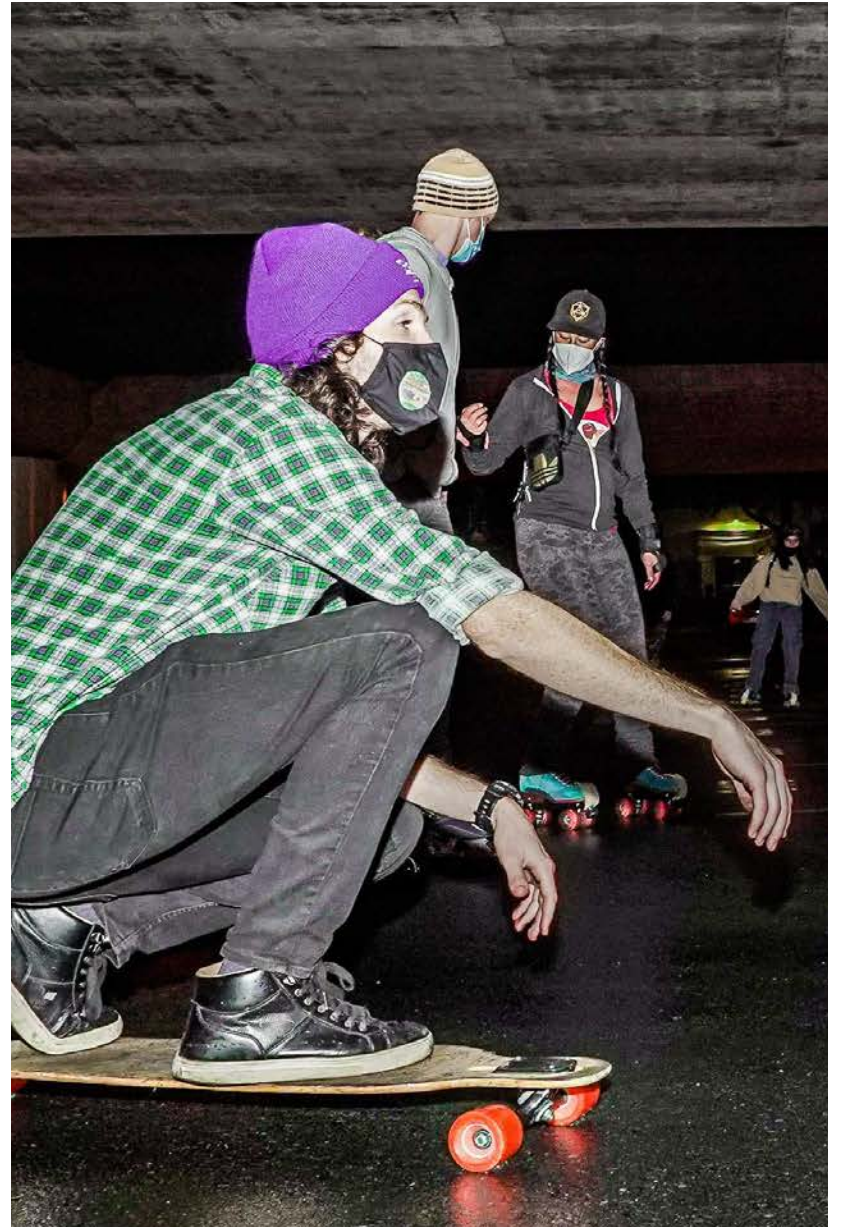
































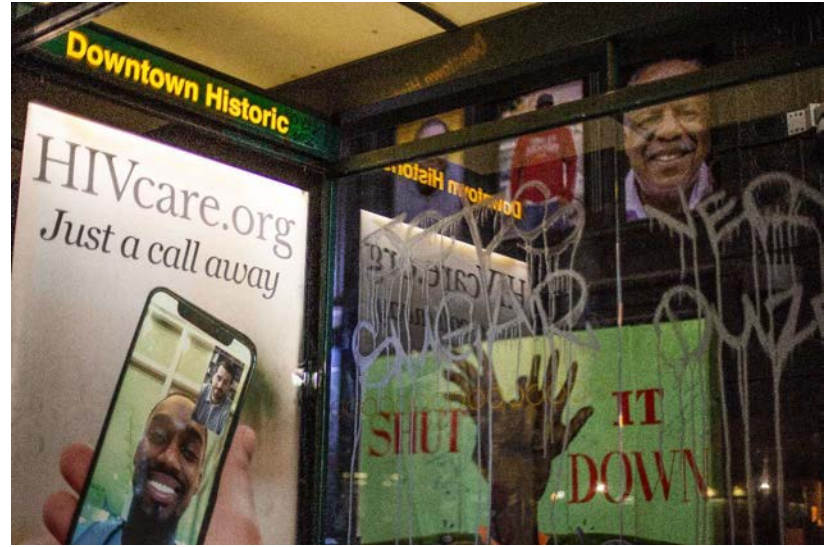




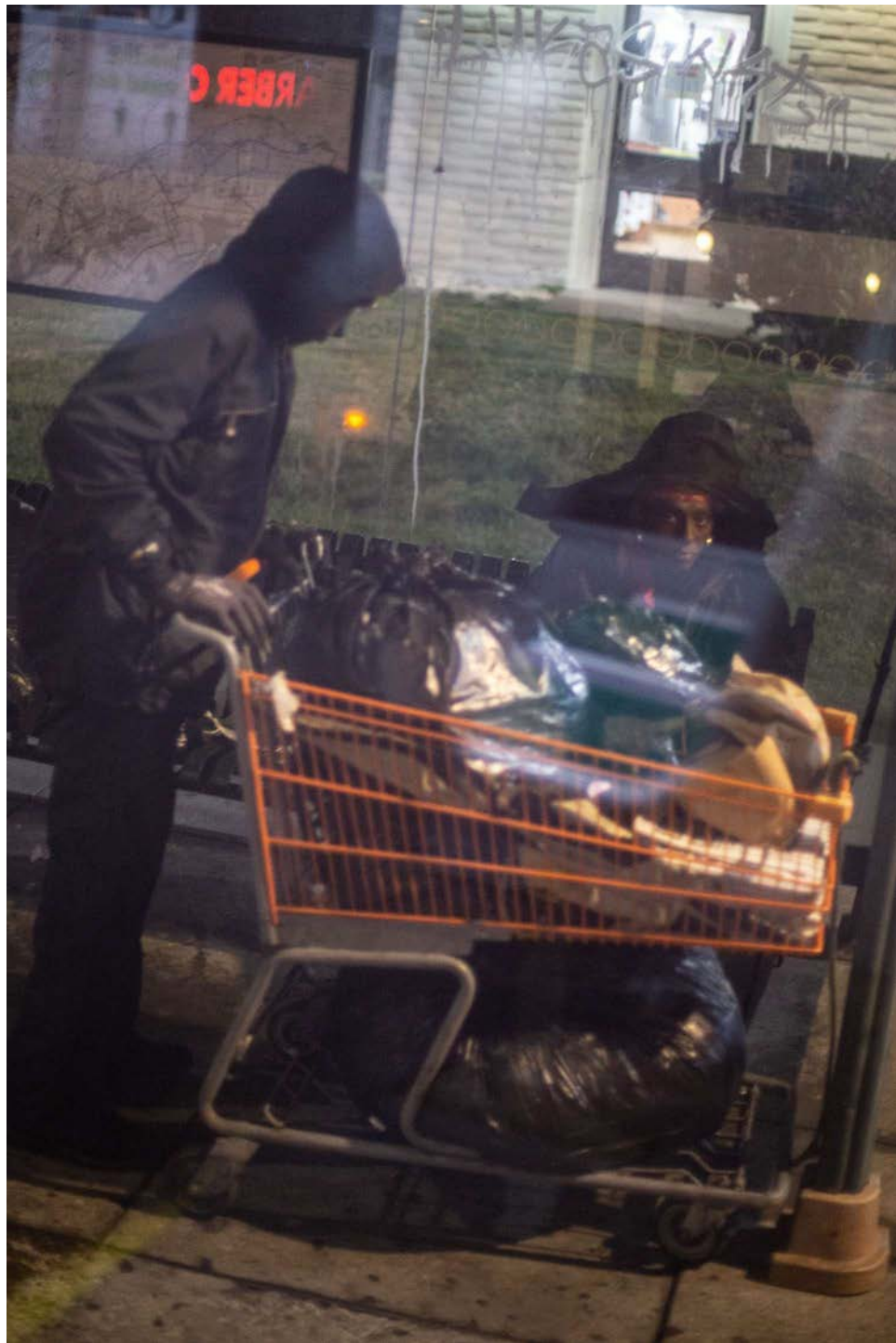




















Brett Marsh is a multimedia journalist based in the Bay Area. He began writing and photographing while living and studying in Cairo, Egypt from 2009-10. His work and residency has spanned North America, North Africa, and Latin America. His storytelling interests include immigrants and communities of color, as well as the relationships between communities and the built and natural environment. He is currently a graduate student at Berkeley Journalism.

Instagram: @brettmarshphoto, Personal website: accidentalnative.com



Cheyenne Tex is a Queer-Indigenous and Filipinx photographer and journalist pursuing a bachelor's degree in media studies and a minor in journalism at UC Berkeley. Tex transferred to UC Berkeley after attending Reedley College and obtaining their associate degree in communications. Tex has experience with a variety of visual storytelling methods including photojournalism as well as fine art, documentary, and conceptual photography. Overall, Tex is dedicated to telling stories and exploring theories of visual representation.



Clara Mokri is a visual journalist from Los Angeles currently living in Santa Cruz, CA. A former Division 1 basketball player at Yale University, she received her BA in Political Science in 2018 and is currently pursuing a master's degree in documentary filmmaking at Berkeley Journalism. Previously, she worked in the photo departments at Vice and TIME, and as an editorial intern at Surfer Magazine.



Daniel Roman is a writer and photographer based in the Bay Area. He will complete his MJ at Berkeley Journalism in 2021. Previously, he worked for four years at a violence prevention organization in Oakland, CA.

Instagram/Twitter: @danieliswriting



Imran Ali Malik is a writer and journalist living in Oakland, CA. A former member of a muslim punk band, with an interdisciplinary educational background in medicine and theology, he is now pursuing a masters at Berkeley Journalism.



Stephanie Penn is a documentary photographer and journalist based in the Bay Area. She reports on stories about the intersection between people and California's landscape, plants, and wildlife. She is currently studying at Berkeley Journalism with a focus on science and the environment.



Yuriria (Yuri) Avila is a multimedia reporter from Mexico City based in San Francisco. Born in Cuernavaca, a smaller city, she started taking photography classes as a teenager because it was one of the few artistic opportunities available. She loved it ever since.

She started her career as a data journalist working for digital outlets such as BuzzFeed News Mexico and Animal Politico, but was later attracted to experiment with different forms of storytelling such as photography and audio. She's interested in topics such as women's rights, latinx community, lgbtq+, and the intersection of all of them.

Instagram: @yuririaconerre, Twitter: @yag1310



Nick Burt is a graduating Senior at UC Berkeley where he pursued a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in journalism, sustainable development, and public policy. His thesis, *Where Do We Go Now?*, utilized his interests in photography and water policy to document unequal access to sanitation services for the unhoused during the COVID-19 pandemic. Burt's dedication to community-based policy is central to his work in documenting America's poverty.

Instagram: @_nickburt_



Ying Zhao is a second-year student from Berkeley Journalism where she focuses on narrative writing and visual storytelling. Ying developed her interest in documentary photography when she worked in Hearst Magazines China as a feature editor.

Twitter: @YingZhao0521, Email: ying_zhao@berkeley.edu



David Sekiranda is a second-year student at Berkeley Journalism. He was born and raised in Uganda but moved to the United States 10 years ago. He has served in the California National Guard as a transport and supply specialist.

Before coming to the United States, Sekiranda worked as both a radio and television journalist for 11 years in Uganda covering politics and sports. While serving in the National Guard, he attended school at Santa Rosa Junior College where he obtained an associate in English degree.



David Rodríguez transferred to UC Berkeley as an undergrad from a community college in his hometown of Santa Ana, CA. He earned his bachelor's degree in Chicano Studies in 2019 and went on to study photojournalism at Berkeley Journalism. He is expected to graduate in May 2021. David reports on latinx communities, cultures, and stories of immigration and diaspora.

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