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January + February 2017 Press Release

## **A CHARMING FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

Photography by Jessica Kourkounis and Ryan Collerd  
January 14th - February 25th

### EVENTS

**Opening Reception:** Saturday, January 14th. 6-10 pm

**Open Hours:** Saturdays in January and February, 1-5 pm

Gravy Studio & Gallery is proud to present ***A Charming Form of Government*** to begin our new year, which features photography from two artists who spent the year prior on the campaign trail in one of the most tumultuous elections in US history. The title is derived from the words of Plato and is as relevant in today's society as when it was written ... when date stamps still ended with BC...

***"Democracy ... is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder, and dispensing a sort of equality to equals and unequals alike."***

The work is powerful, it is poignant, and it is yet to be determined in the days that follow just how iconic it may become with this impending administration. Join us to hear from the artists on what it is the grueling campaign meant for them, their work - and what challenges they now face, post election. Let us all come together and attempt to find solace in this new era of American politics.

At this same time, Gravy is also presenting our second *Curate Your Own Zine: 2017*. We've asked photographers and the art community to submit photos and writing about their feelings about America today; issues they are worried about, photos from protests they have gone to, inspiration from city streets, experiences from traveling, portraits, places, events, etc.

At our opening reception on Saturday January 14th, guests can select up to 10 images and/or text to curate in their own zine. Zines will be \$10 and mailed within 2 weeks of order. Proceeds go to ACLU of Pennsylvania.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### **Jessica Kourkounis:**

Jessica Kourkounis is currently a Philadelphia-based photojournalist. She has spent a good part of the last year and a half covering the presidential campaigns for Getty Images. Past assignments have included national political campaigns, natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, Pope Francis' visit to Philly, immigration and issues along the US Mexico border and many others. She is a regular contributor to Getty Images and The New York Times. Recently she has begun reporting for WHY?s Keystone Crossroads.

### **Ryan Collerd:**

Ryan Collerd received a BFA in photojournalism from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2002. That same year he moved to Philadelphia after a brief stint delivering mail in a small New Jersey town. Collerd is currently a freelance photographer whose work can often be found in publications such as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and the Atlantic. He says the photographs presented at Gravy "were made between January and November of 2016, some on assignment and some not. After covering the primary in New Hampshire, I traveled to the conventions in Cleveland and Philadelphia and later covered numerous rallies in southeastern Pennsylvania. This selection of images attempts to convey the heightened emotion and frenetic tone that has come to define America's polarized political climate."

*Gravy Studio & Gallery is a collaborative photography workspace and gallery located on 2nd Street in Northern Liberties. Our goal is to serve as a multi-functional space that promotes the work of local photographers. Opening receptions are held on the First Friday of every month and additional open hours vary.*