

BRYAN OHNO GALLERY

In LEGO, We Connect: The Adventure Continues

5 November - 12 December 2015

521 S. Main St. Seattle, WA 98104

Artist Reception:

Family Toy Photography Workshop (free):

Kristina Alexanderson **Shelly Corbett**

Mike Stimpson

Boris Vanrillaer

6 - 8pm Thursday 5 November 2015

1 - 3pm Saturday 7 November 2015

OCTOBER 21, 2015 (Seattle) — Earlier this year, the Bryan Ohno Gallery hosted the first Fine Art Lego Photography exhibit in the world. Popular demand by critics and fans alike has resulted in this second, all-new show featuring even more artists from around the globe as they capture 21st century pop culture with a fresh sense of mystery, wonder and playfulness.

The act of building a world with your own hands is a powerful feeling. Block by block, piece by piece —the possibilities are limitless. This creative drive stems all the way back to youth—reminiscent of a child stretched out on the ground with LEGO spread all around, as they forge a world of their own creation. Above all other toys, LEGO's foster this sense of play and imagination in every sense.

5 November through 12 December, the gallery welcomes new work from photographers Kristina Alexanderson, Shelly Corbett, Mike Stimpson and Boris Vanrillaer. Linked by their sense of wonder and imagination, each of these artists captures the beauty of humanity through the unexpected, yet wildly popular LEGO mini figures. Through their fine-art photographs, these artists are able to join these beloved characters to us in a way that we couldn't imagine when we were children—but now can recognize in the soft moments of connection, empathy, and nature that are glimpsed and reflective of our own lives, past and present.

Please join us in geeking out over this unique exhibition that merges science, fantasy, art, and creativity in a way that hasn't been seen before.

The gallery will host an opening reception, open to the public, on Thursday, November 5th from 6-8pm. In addition, the artists will host a free family Toy Photography Workshop on Saturday, November 7 from 1-3pm.

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Hi-res images are available upon request.

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KRISTINA ALEXANDERSON (Stockholm) Instagram @KAlexanderson

There's a softness to the photos of Swedish photographer Kristina Alexanderson that can't be denied. She possesses the unique talent of infusing her photos with a playful energy and light, while simultaneously building a narrative based on the relationships formed amongst her LEGO. She's not telling the story we all expect of the Imperial Soldier, but instead is transforming these ordinary moments into ones that we can resonate with; such as time spent between a parent and a child, or the affection a child has for it's stuffed companion...each moment is touching in it's own way, familiar and unfamiliar all at once—the loveliest of juxtapositions. Through her photography, Alexanderson questions the motives of traditional myths and parenthood, searching for clues to unlock age-old questions of good and evil. Alexanderson is also an ombudsman for Creative Commons Sweden, working to spread awareness of Creative Commons. In 2012, she published the guide, *Source Criticism on the Internet*.



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MIKE STIMPSON (Birmingham, UK) Instagram [@balakov](#)

A Stormtrooper looking out the window wistfully through falling rain... it's this type of unexpected, moody and lush visual interpretation of pop culture that UK toy photographer Mike Stimpson is known for. His work imbues our beloved icons and LEGO characters with an almost startling compassion, capturing them in quiet moments such as baking cupcakes, crafting a paper airplane, or playing with a kitten. These stories may have taken place "a long time ago in a galaxy far away," but through Stimpson's extraordinary vision, we are able to re-discover our own tender humanity in the present.



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SHELLY CORBETT (Seattle) Instagram @xxsjc

In the words of Seattle-based art photographer Shelly Corbett: “the idea of revealing an intimate moment or glimpse into a private world are ever present in my mind”...and when looking to the private beauty that exists in her photographs, those words truly come to life. The way that Shelly composes her photos shifts the focus onto the LEGO as an individual—one who is adventuring and living life of their own accord. These individuals exist in private moments of action or contemplation, ones that perhaps we shouldn’t see, but are able to because of Shelly, and our access to their world becomes all the richer for it. After many years photographing ethereal underwater nudes, a twist of fate shifted Shelly Corbett’s focus, drawing her into the more playful world of toy photography. Corbett initiated the creative collective of StuckInPlastic and is committed to strengthening the global community of toy photographers.



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BORIS VANRILLAER (Stockholm) Instagram @_me_2

A quick glance at the toy photography of Belgian-born, Swedish Archipelago-based Boris Vanrillaer is most-definitely not going to be long enough. The visually dense and abundant worlds he creates need a lengthy perusal in order to fully appreciate the way his scenes draw you in, bring the focus to one detail, then guide it to a completely different aspect of the photo. The delicacy of that smooth transition from chaos to clarity is partly what makes his work so remarkable, and by placing these familiar LEGO characters inside of a completely new world he is able to extend and completely change their story. As a result we are able to immerse ourselves inside of these dreamy, fantastical worlds at play and engage with the characters in a completely novel way. By capturing the images of figurines at the first spark of an adventure, his work inspires us to remember own childhood adventures, beautifully illuminated by the magical light that is specific to the Northern Hemisphere.



About Stuckinplastic: All four of the artists are members of StuckInPlastic, an arts collective that promotes the toy photography community and enables others to experience the whimsy and camaraderie shared by toy photographers and their fan base. StuckInPlastic's mission is to bring like-minded individuals together for toy photography meet-ups, foster information-sharing, participation and collaboration. A lively blog and more information can be found at stuckinplastic.com.

About the Bryan Ohno Gallery

The Bryan Ohno Gallery features works that blur the line between art and science, challenge art traditions, and embrace evolving cultural intersections. Selected in 2013 as one of "Seattle's 10 Best Contemporary Art Galleries," by The Culture Trip, the gallery originally opened its doors in 1996 in Pioneer Square. The gallery is now located in the thriving artists' neighborhood of the International District. For more information, please visit bryanohno.com