

Immediate Release  
Opening Reception: November 11, 2023, 7 – 9 PM  
630 Flushing Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Brooklyn NY, 11206

THE IW GALLERY

**COPE NYC**  
Creative Opportunities Promoting Equality

The BRIDGE: CLASS OF 2023 NY

# THE BRIDGE



[wearebkc.com/bridge](http://wearebkc.com/bridge)



REAL WORLD MENTORSHIP PROGRAM  
FOR EMERGING PHOTOGRAPHERS

CLASS OF 2023 NY

Esther Alatishe  
Leslie An  
Michael Bookal Jr  
Heather Lynch  
Adriel Michelle  
Mya Nazario  
Chykeem Nichols  
Jeffrey Sun  
Patience Ojionuka  
Sowaibah Shahbaz  
Esai Velasquez



**FINAL SHOW**  
**SAT NOVEMBER 11**  
**7:00 - 9:00 PM**



THE IW GALLERY  
630 Flushing Ave  
Brooklyn, NY  
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630 FLUSHING AVENUE | ACUMEN  
CAPITAL PARTNERS LLC

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## The BRIDGE: CLASS OF 2023 NY

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We are delighted to announce our second year in partnership with The Bridge and ASMP NY to feature their much-anticipated culminating exhibition.

Since July, students of The Bridge NYC have been grinding through questions of communication, creative points of view, and career sustainability. They haven't been alone in this journey as pros and educators from across the industry, and from ASMP membership, have been contributing their experiences, their stories, and honest thoughts about these very same issues. Concurrently, they've been conceptualizing, critiquing, developing, and completing this new work. They have worked with individualized Mentors, gaining fresh opportunities in the industry and valuable feedback for their projects. This is, for some, the first of many exhibitions and showcases of work as students become professional artists and creators. For others, it's a stage to share their voice as it stands today and to consider this moment before hurtling to the next - a step on the way to whatever their future may hold.

Contributing student photographers are Esther Alatishe, Leslie An, Michael Bookal Jr., Heather Lynch, Adriel Michelle, Mya Nazario, Chykeem Nichols, Jeffrey Sun, Patience Ojionuka, Sowaibah Shabaz, and Esai Velasquez.

The Bridge is a 16-week Mentorship Program for Emerging Photographers presented by BKC in collaboration with The American Society of Media Photographers New York and offered to accepted students for free through grants from The ASMP Foundation and The Brooklyn Arts Council, as well as generous donations from The Freelancers Union, Sony, Signs 365, and individual donors like you. If you would like to learn more about The Bridge or to support the program's efforts in New York and Los Angeles, please visit <http://wearebkc.com/bridge>.

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*IN OCTOBER 2021, DIRECTOR VIDA SABBAGHI FOUNDED THE IW GALLERY, INSPIRED BY COPE NYC'S 'AN INCLUSIVE WORLD PROJECT.' IT OPERATES AS A PARTNERSHIP GALLERY WORKING WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREATIVES AROUND THE WORLD.*

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