

RAFFAELLA
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Zoe Leonard
Biography

Zoe Leonard was born in 1961 in Liberty, New York. She lives and works in New York.

She works with photography, sculptures and installations in a conceptual and a poetic view on the world; often questioning the evolution of society. During the Eighties and Nineties she was activist with ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) and the queer activist art collectives Gang and Fierce Pussy. Several works by Leonard stemmed from the feeling of loss, also derived from friends' death caused by AIDS. Fundamental themes in her research are the urban and natural landscapes and their contrasts, personal and collective memories, migration, gender. Her work is able to make the viewer rethink the act of looking itself, how moments and situations can compose a narration.

"[...] I think the work is instinctive." For Leonard a photograph "[...] is a subjective view. It's a picture. [...] It's an object. It's not reality. It's not truth. It's a work on paper and I made it. This is my truth. And my truth is no more true than anyone else's."

Through her works one can see how the act of observing can be dense and every moment anew.

She has taken part in several solo exhibitions such as: *Zoe Leonard: Al río / To the River*, Chinati Foundation, Marfa (2024); *Zoe Leonard: View from Below*, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (2024); *Excerpts from Al río/ To the River*, Galleria Raffaella Cortese, Milan (2023); *Al río/To the River*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Australia (2023); *Al Río/To the River*, Mudam, The Contemporary Art Museum, Luxembourg and Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris (2022); *Survey*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York and MOCA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2018); *I want a president*, High Line Art, New

York (2016); *Zoe Leonard: Analogue*, Museum of Modern Art, New York (2015); *Photographs*, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Wien (2009); *You See I am here after all*, Dia:Beacon, New York (2008); *Photographs*, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid (2008); *Photographs*, Fotomuseum, Winterthur (2007); *Secession*, Wien (1997); *Kunsthalle*, Basel (1997).

A selected list of group shows include: Radio Luxembourg: *Echoes across borders*, MUDAM, Luxembourg (2025); *A show of affection: Collection Constellation 1*, Fotomuseum, Winterthur (2024); *All in! Re-Designing Democracy*, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn (2024); *Exposé-es*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2023); *Prelude. Poetic Intention*, MACBA, Barcelona (2022); *Arcimboldo Face to Face*, Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz (2021); *Among the Trees*, Hayward Gallery, London (2020); *Queer Forms*, Katherine E. Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minnesota (2019); *Histories of our time. On Collective and Personal Narratives*, Kunsthau Baselland, Basel (2019); *The Warmth of Other Suns: Stories of Global Displacement*, The Phillips Collection, Washington (2019); *Carnegie International*, 57th Edition, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2018); *The Restless Earth*, La Triennale di Milano, Milan (2017); *Unfinished: Thoughts Left Visible*, The Met Breuer, New York (2016); *L'image papillon*, Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg (2013).

She took part in Documenta IX (1992) and XII (2007); Whitney Biennials 1993, 1997, 2014.