

**Lisa Leone's Photographs of Hip-Hop Icons from early 1990s on Display  
at  
The Bronx Museum of the Arts**

*Here I Am: Photographs by Lisa Leone* on view at The Bronx Museum of the Arts from September 11, 2014 to January 11, 2015

**Bronx, NY** – September 2, 2014 The Bronx Museum of the Arts will present a solo exhibition by the Bronx-born photographer Lisa Leone. *Here I Am: Photographs by Lisa Leone* will feature a series of rarely exhibited photographs, shot between 1986 and 1995, of hip-hop icons including Nas in the first studio recordings for what would become his iconic debut album *Illmatic*, Snoop on the set of his first video, and Grandmaster Flash at a RockSteady reunion, and Biggie, among others. Leone's photographs document the pivotal period of hip-hop's rise and capture the figures who forged the path for the genre.

*Here I Am: Photographs by Lisa Leone* is both a direct documentation and celebration of hip hop's iconic figures. Depicted is their energy, individuality, and intimate moments that serve as intimate glimpses into this culturally critical period, charting the rise of a Bronx-born artistic movement originally started by local youth and ultimately becoming a mainstream global force.

"Hip Hop was an amalgamation of disciplines that co-existed and collectively changed the world we knew. Today its divided existence pales to its once innocent intentions of being acknowledged" said graffiti artist Mare 139. "Lisa's photography captures a culture in transition; it is through her lens that one can appreciate the journey of the young artists who helped pave the way for generations to come."

*Here I Am: Photographs by Lisa Leone* is organized by Michelle Dunn Marsh, Executive Director of Photographic Center Northwest and founder of Minor Matters. The exhibition is accompanied by book with contributions by Rosie Perez; Fred Brathwaite, FAB 5 FREDDY; Nasir bin Olu Dara Jones, aka Nas; Mare139, aka Carlos Rodriguez; and Jorge "Popmaster Fabel" Pabon.

Leone is a photographer and cinematographer. She began her career photographing musicians like Moby, Lauren Hill, Maxwell; and personalities like Debi Mazar and Spike Lee. For a number of years, she worked as a contributing photographer and columnist for *British Vogue* and *VIBE* magazines. While shooting stills on a music video, the director asked Lisa to shoot B roll, marking the start of her career in cinematography. Notably, Lisa worked on Stanley Kubrick's last film, *Eyes Wide Shut*. Lisa continues creative pursuits in the field and is Vice President of Artistic Programs at the National YoungArts Foundation.

**About The Bronx Museum of the Arts**

The Bronx Museum of the Arts is an internationally recognized cultural destination that presents innovative contemporary art exhibitions and education programs, and is committed to promoting cross-cultural dialogues for diverse audiences. Since its founding in 1971, the Museum has

played a vital role in the Bronx by helping to make art accessible to the entire community and connecting with local schools, artists, teens, and families through its robust education initiatives. In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the Museum implemented a universal free admission policy, supporting its mission to make arts experiences available to all audiences.

The Museum's collection comprises over 1,000 modern and contemporary artworks in all media and highlights work by artists of African, Asian, and Latin American ancestry, as well as artists for whom the Bronx has been critical to their development. Located on the Grand Concourse, the Museum's home is a distinctive contemporary landmark designed by the internationally recognized firm Arquitectonica.

###

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Lauren Click

Public Programs Manager

[lclick@bronxmuseum.org](mailto:lclick@bronxmuseum.org)

718-681-6000, ext. 131