



## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Juan Gutierrez, Director, Marketing and Public Relations  
(714) 432-5725  
Tyler Stallings, Director, Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion  
(714) 432-5102

# Amy Elkins Explores Contemporary Masculinity at The Doyle Starting Sept. 20



*Amy Elkins, Jake, 2006, from the Wallflower I series*

On display at Orange Coast College's Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion from Sept. 20 until Dec. 1, [Amy Elkins'](#) first survey of photographs and first solo exhibition in the Western United States explores contemporary masculinity with photographs of male athleticism, of men serving life and death row sentences, and of cisgender and transgender masculine identifying individuals.

The exhibition, titled "[Amy Elkins: Photographs of Contemporary Masculinity](#)," is curated by The Doyle's director Tyler Stallings, and presents selections from several series including "Elegant Violence," "Danseur," "Wallflower," "Wallflower II," "The Golden State" and "Black is the Day, Black is the Night." A reception for Elkins will take place on Thursday, Sept. 27, from 5–8 p.m., and there will be an artist talk on Saturday, Sept. 29, at 1 p.m. Admission for both events is free.

In two bodies of works, Elkins explores the balance between athleticism, modes of violence or aggression, and varying degrees of vulnerability. The "Danseur," series examines gender stereotypes associated with dance, while "Elegant Violence" captures the aftermath of what Elkins describes as "a brutal contact sport... that has long been described as both traditional and barbaric, elegant and violent."

"Black is the Day, Black is the Night" examines the impacts long term isolation and capital punishment has on one's sense of self, others and the outside world through personal correspondence Elkins had with men serving life and death row sentences in maximum-security prisons in the U.S.; while "The Golden State" turns attention to California's death row, the largest death row population in the United States (currently at 744).

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In her latest body of work “Wallflower II”, seen for the first time in this exhibition, Elkins continues an exploration into the many nuances of gender identity and masculinity. Unlike “Wallflower,” (2006-2008) which aimed the lens at cisgender men almost entirely photographed in Elkins’ personal, studio space, “Wallflower II” explores a much broader sense of masculine identity — shot in the personal space of strangers in urban and rural Georgia upon first meeting. Works from both projects are seen mixed together in this installation.

“The Amy Elkins exhibition is part of The Doyle’s plans for more first-time surveys and retrospectives by artists, early or mature in their careers, with strong visions,” says Tyler Stallings, director at The Doyle and curator for the Amy Elkins exhibition.

Elkins received her BFA in Photography from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She has been exhibited and published both nationally and internationally, including at The High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA; Kunsthalle Wien in Vienna, Austria; the Minneapolis Institute of Arts; and North Carolina Museum of Art. Elkins has been awarded The Lightwork Artist-in-Residence in Syracuse, NY in 2011, the Aperture Prize and Latitude Artist-in-Residence in 2014 and The Peter S. Reed Foundation Grant in 2015. Her first book “Black is the Day, Black is the Night” won the 2017 Lucie Independent Book Award, was shortlisted for the Mack First Book Award and the Paris Photo-Aperture Foundation Photobook Prize as well as being listed as one of the Best Photobooks of 2016 by TIME.

The Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion at Orange Coast College focuses on contemporary visual culture and creates dynamic programming that inspires interaction and dialogue between artists, students, scholars, and local and international communities.

### [Upcoming exhibitions for Fall 2018 at The Doyle include:](#)

- “Elizabeth Turk: ThinkLab LIVE .002: Extinct Bird Cages,” Sept. 6–Oct. 4, Project Gallery
- “Amy Elkins: Photographs of Contemporary Masculinity,” Sept. 20–Dec. 1, Main Gallery
- “OCC Fine Arts Faculty Exhibition,” Oct. 18–Dec. 1, Project Gallery

Admission is free for all exhibitions. Hours for “Amy Elkins: Photographs of Contemporary Masculinity” are Monday through Wednesday, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m. until 7 p.m., and Saturday, Noon until 4 p.m. The gallery is closed on Fridays and school holidays in Fall 2018.

The Doyle is located next to OCC’s Parking Lot D, off Merrimac Way, building 180, between Starbucks and the Art Center classrooms. For additional information, call (714) 432-5738, or visit The Doyle website <http://orangecoastcollege.edu/DoyleArts>. A map of Orange Coast College is available at [www.orangecoastcollege.edu](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu).

*Orange Coast College, founded in 1947, is one of the nation's top transfer schools. With a student population of 25,000, OCC provides exemplary programs leading to Associate degrees and 130 career programs. The college's 164-acre campus is located in the heart of Costa Mesa.*