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Contact: Steve Garvey, 631-553-5799, steve@brainstormstudios.com

**PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION TELLS THE EMOTIONAL STORY OF A
SHUTTERED MENTAL INSTITUTION AND A “LOST” SIBLING.**

**(UN)FORGOTTEN BY KATIE SETTEL
KICKS OFF WITH OPENING RECEPTION
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 6:00 PM
katiesettel.com/unforgotten**

Bridgeport, CT – The Armstrong Gallery is pleased to present the world premiere of “(un)Forgotten,” a photographic exhibition by Katie Settel, illustrating her remarkable journey into the Mansfield Training School, a shuttered mental institution residing on the Storrs Campus of UConn. It was here that Settel’s “lost” brother, Andy, spent most of his life until the facility was shut down in 1993 due to neglect and overcrowding.

The two-week exhibit opens October 4, 2019 with an opening reception from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Armstrong Gallery, located at 305 Knowlton Street in Bridgeport. Katie Settel will be present at the event.

“(un)Forgotten” is described as “a photography-based exhibit about a common, shame-filled-secret: a ‘forgotten’ sibling.”

“I have a brother who is intellectually challenged and when he was born, doctors urged my parents to send him to an institution,” Settel explains. “As a kid, I always knew of Andy, but had never met him and was always haunted by that — he was a family member we rarely spoke of. But what I’ve learned when sharing this story is that I’m not the only one with this lost history. There are still a ton of brothers and sisters in group homes that are alone because this secret endures.”

Through an artistic encounter of powerful images captured at the abandoned institution and their haunting contexts, Settel believes her photographs will draw viewers into an emotional space of awareness, understanding and possibly healing. “I want to tell my story, show that there is no shame. I want to combine history with today's acceptance and unite families so that they may become advocates for siblings who cannot speak for themselves.”

“(un)Forgotten” runs from October 4 to October 18, 2019. Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 4-8:00 p.m. and by appointment. More information can be found at katiesettel.com/unforgotten or by calling 917-922-8090.

MORE ABOUT KATIE SETTEL

Katie Settel is an award-winning photographer, recognized for her mindful, authentic and unstaged artistic approach. Over her two-decades-long career, Katie has studied with Jay Maisel, The Fashion Institute of Technology and The International Center of Photography. She is known for her images of BB King, Steven Tyler and Sheryl Crow. Her earlier exhibit, "Shot in the Dark," focused on low-light concert photographs, the title reflecting her strong belief in taking a shot in the dark.

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