

# LOIS LAMBERT GALLERY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Dez Steps In", 8" x 10"  
Archival giclée print  
Edition of 25



"Madaline Riley", 30" x 40"  
Archival giclée print  
Edition of 25

## JOHN NYBOER

### "The Real Future: Dancers at The Lot, Los Angeles"

November 11th, 2017 – January 6th, 2018

Opening reception Saturday, November 11th, 6-9pm

SANTA MONICA, CA - Lois Lambert Gallery presents "The Real Future: Dancers at The Lot, Los Angeles", a series of photographs from artist photographer John Nyboer. This collection of photographs is an intimate look into "The Lot", a vibrant underground dance community thriving in the parking lots and warehouses of downtown Los Angeles.

The idea for this series of photographs was born on November 8th 2016. As John Nyboer walked through the streets of downtown Los Angeles thinking about "the fear and ignorance that had prevailed in the 2016 election", Nyboer stumbled on this seemingly secret gathering in the heart of downtown. First he heard the bass thump of music and as he walked toward the sound he came across a group of dancers that were performing in the middle of an empty parking lot.

"I heard music and saw a group performing a dance routine in a parking lot, a synchronized body of movement and shadows beneath a harsh security light. I headed straight for the scene and saw a collective made up of people from everywhere. I knew immediately that this was a future worth representing. I asked the person next to me:

"What is this group up to?"

"Popping. It's a popping class."

"A dance class? Right here in the f\*\*\*\*ing parking lot?"

When the dance ended Nyboer made his way to Slim, the leader and teacher of the group. Slim Boogie is a professional dancer who performs around the world and is embedded in the recent cultural history of the breakdancing scene in Los Angeles. Slim started the group to build up the dance community here in LA. Unlike countries like Korea or France, which have full time paid dancers competing professionally, the US does not offer much support for dancers. These

meet-ups allow dancers from LA and all over the world to practice while away from home, meet other dancers, and hone their skill for free as professionals and beginners alike are welcomed in this circle of expression.



"Mad Lines", 8" x 10"  
Archival giclée print  
Edition of 25

In the same welcoming spirit that the group shows new dancers, Slim welcomed Nyboer and allowed him to come into their private realm. Nyboer was so impressed by the diversity of the group, their positivity and open forum style, that he was compelled to document their work. "The Lot" represents what the future could look like if everyone lived according to the ethos of these dancers whom in his words "represent the best of humanity".

Nyboer made the decision to photograph in natural light with out flash lighting to captivate the essence of the dance performances as opposed to a crisp well-lit photograph. By playing with the shutter speed, Nyboer managed to capture just the movements of the dancer, creating a ghost-like figure within a crowd. In the image "Mad", the photograph is bathed in a pink and orange hue caused by the difficulty of realizing true colors in the dimly lit parking lot. The faces of the dancers in the background show how attentive they are. In their expressions you can see each critiquing while acknowledging the skill and creativity of each dancer. Nyboer wants people to imagine placing themselves in the middle of the dancers, to feel "the joy, courage, and community that drive this art form".