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FAUXLIAGE

TORRANCE YORK
SEMAPHORE

JOSEF BUERGI
MONGOLIA

EZELL JORDAN
SEAFOOD MARKETS KOREA

DIANA CHEREN NYGREN
THE PERSISTENCE OF FAMILY

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measurably change the body, brain and behavior and how this knowledge is translated into specific practices that advance health and wellbeing.” Neuroaesthetics helps explain the benefits I have garnered from making Semaphore.

Parkinson’s disease is the world’s fastest-growing brain disorder. Currently, over ten million people live with Parkinson’s worldwide. My initial ambition for Semaphore, to foster a greater understanding of living with Parkinson’s and encourage dialogue that includes the often-taboo subjects of illness and vulnerability, has expanded. From this new perspective, I advocate for the arts as a force to benefit the health of our bodies, brains, and spirits. While Semaphore is relevant to the Parkinson’s community, it also connects with others whose journeys require growth, patience, and perseverance to move forward.

For more information about neuroaesthetics visit www.yourbrainonart.com.

Semaphore examines the shift in my perspective after being diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease nine years ago. Through images, I consider what it means to integrate this life-altering information into my sense of self. What does acceptance look like?

Post-diagnosis, everyday items and encounters take on new meaning. Simple tools now present a challenge, and uncertainty pervades the periphery. As I look around me, the branches of trees become networks of neurons. Using photography to capture my fears, challenges, and aspirations has facilitated my understanding of the disease and strengthened my hope for the future. Optimism holds the key for me right now. Light, always an inspiration, illuminates a path for me to follow. Pursued of this path, I created Semaphore.

In their 2023 book *Your Brain on Art: How Art Transforms Us*, authors Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross define the evolving field of neuroaesthetics (or neuroarts) as “the transdisciplinary study of how the arts and aesthetic experiences

ABOUT

Artist and educator Torrance York earned a BA from Yale and an MFA in photography from Rhode Island School of Design. She is from the United States. In 2022, she published her monograph Semaphore about the shift in her perspective after being diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. The book contains 67 photographs and an essay by Rebecca A Senf, PhD, Chief Curator at the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona. Featured in various publications and podcasts, Semaphore has been awarded in Lenscratch’s 2021 Art & Science Awards, as a Critical Mass 2021 Finalist and a favorite book of 2022 by online photography magazine What Will You Remember? An ongoing project, Semaphore has been exhibited at the Danforth Art Museum at Framingham State University in Massachusetts, and is currently on view at the Lightburn Gallery, New Canaan Library in Connecticut. Her work is represented by Rick Wester Fine Art, Chelsea, NYC.

Public and private collections owning York’s photographs include the Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA; Fine Art Collection at Montefiore Einstein, NY; AllianceBernstein, New York, NY; John & Sue Wieland Collection at the Warehouse, Atlanta, GA; and Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Providence, RI. York has exhibited nationally and internationally at venues such as Fotonostrom, Barcelona, Spain; Littlejohn Contemporary, New York, NY; Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA; Schelfhault Gallery, University of Bridgeport, CT; Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; and Center for Photography at Woodstock, NY. York was a resident artist at the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass, Colorado, and received a Connecticut artist fellowship grant in 2010.

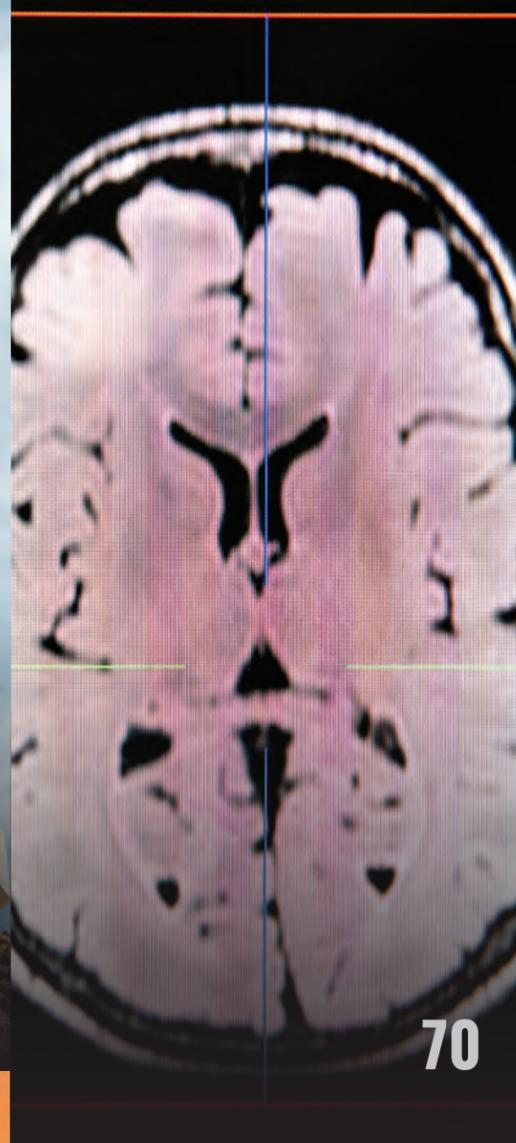
Since publishing Semaphore with Kehrer Verlag (October 2022), in addition to lectures through art institutions, York has presented at the World Parkinson’s Congress in Barcelona, to Parkinson’s support groups in person and virtually, and to the Neurology Department’s Grand Rounds at the University of Virginia Medical School to share her experience as an artist and person with Parkinson’s.



62



64



70



69



74



77







