

## INTRODUCTION

*Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us,  
we see the past, present and future.*

—T.S. Eliot

In 2009, I published a book, *In the Presence of Family: Brooklyn Portraits*, inspired by photographing families at street fairs and in my studio. It addresses issues of race, gender, class and diversity through photographs of families transformed through biracial adoption, LGBTQ parenting and intermarriage. The second book in this series, *Revisiting: In the Presence of Family: Brooklyn Portraits*, provides a seven-year photographic history, 2003-2010, of these Brooklyn families.

Children grow up, adults grow older, marriages occur, and siblings are born. Family portraits provide the visual evidence of these shared memories. When we revisit them, we see how truly temporal they are, especially in an era that increasingly turns our most basic relationships into news bites or consumer transactions. We look to the past to inform the present and can observe time passing, for example, in a family photo album, which, in turn, can awaken a universal memory of our mortality. We look at these images and remember those moments with nostalgia, with a smile, or sometimes with pain.

I know the people I photograph, having taught art to many of the children. In the *Campbell-Johnson* family, one observes two small children transformed into giant teenagers, one becoming a professional basketball player. A shy young boy in the *Malfucci* family, hiding his head in 2003, confidently smiles into the camera in 2010. A newly adopted Guatemalan baby in the *Fajardo-Latino* family grows into a beautiful girl, along with her sister, also a Guatemalan adoptee. We see the *Foresta-Weiner* family in 2003 as a couple expecting a baby. In 2010, that fetus is now an impish seven-year-old boy. The *Goodson-Kwei-Xing-Ming* family evokes memories of an intimacy that developed from communal, familial support.

We tell our family stories from our individual perspectives. Each of us chooses what's important, what's to be preserved and what matters for our future. Whether it's the hidden power plays, the remembered alliances, or the joy of jumping in a parents' lap, the stories resonate and are moments frozen in time through my camera.



**Farjardo-Latino Family**

Above: Brooklyn Pride Street Fair, 2004  
Right: Park Slope, Portrait Workshop, 2012

Rose is of Cuban and Irish descent, Doug is Polish and Italian, and their adopted daughters, Lily and Francesca, are 100% Guatemalan. Rose: "My mom's side of the family tossed a coin to decide whether to leave Scotland for the United States or Australia. That's how they came to America in the early 1900s."





**Ebersole-Madden Family**

Above: Fabulous Fifth Avenue Fair, 2003

Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Workshop, 2010

Vicki's ancestors immigrated to North America from the British Isles in the 1800s and traveled west by 1900. Vicki moved to New York City as soon as she turned eighteen. Jim is half Irish and German; Jacob and Sam are their sons. Vicki: "Relatives on both sides of Jim's family are named Ebersole."





**Clark-O'Keefe Family**

Above: Fabulous Fifth Avenue Fair, 2004

Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Workshop, 2010

Michael is Irish-American, and his grandparents are from County Cork, Ireland and the United States. Aidan is their son. Lorna: "I'm an all-American mutt—Irish, English, French, and German. The Irish culture and identity of Michael's family is strong in ours. We travel to Ireland visiting relatives often."





**Roman-Perez Family**

Above: Fabulous Fifth Avenue Fair, 2003

Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Workshop, 2010

Victor was born in Puerto Rico. He came to the United States in 1967 when he was ten years old. Liz is Puerto Rican and was born in Brooklyn. Divi is their daughter. Liz: "Hay que vive la vida. Family is the moment in which we live!"







**Campbell-Johnson Family**

Above: Brooklyn New School, Family Day, 2002  
Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Workshop, 2010

Makini, an educator and school counselor, is of African-American and Caribbean descent. Makini: "I'm proud of my sons! Dakari is living his dream playing in the NBA with the Oklahoma City Thunder. Kamani, a senior in high school, will attend a university in the fall on a basketball scholarship."





**Barton Family**

Above: Brooklyn Pride Street Fair, 2007

Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Workshop, 2010

Jacqueline, a teacher, is from Jamaica. She immigrated to the United States in 1974. William is her son. Jacqueline: "I was raised by my grandmother and grandaunt. We raised pigs, goats and chickens. Most of the food we ate, we raised or grew."





**Renek Family**

Above: Fifth Avenue Street Fair, 2004

Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Workshop, 2010

Nava is a writer. Her ancestors are from Lithuania and Hungary. Evan, her son, is half Eastern European and half English. Nava: "Laughter, love of life and mutual respect must be passed down from generation to generation."





**Foresta-Weiner Family**

Above: Christmas Studio, 2003

Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Studio, 2010

Beth, a teacher, was born in Brooklyn, and is of Italian, Scottish and Ukrainian descent. Justin, a photographer and architect, was born in Manhattan and is of Japanese and Jewish descent. Tyler, their son, was born in Brooklyn. Beth: "Our mixed heritage adds to the richness of our family life."







**Hossannah Family**

Above: Christmas Studio, 2003

Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Workshop, 2010

Rie is Korean and Japanese; Carl is from Guyana. They immigrated to the United States when they were twenty years old. Their children, both American, are Dan and Miu. Rie: "My husband and I are citizens of the United States. We believe that peace and love start from family and community."





**Goodson-Kwei-Xing-Ming Family**

Above: Christmas Studio, 2003

Right: Park Slope, Portrait Studio, 2012

Ying is a native of Brooklyn. Her heritage is Chinese and African American. Her children, Moi and Simeon, and granddaughter, Maya, are also from Brooklyn. Ying: "Growing up multiracial gave our family a flexible mindset of respect and tolerance of ideologies and cultures different from our own."





**Moore-Stokes Family**

Above: Fifth Avenue Street Fair, 2002

Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Workshop, 2010

Tanya is African American. Her sons are Callian and Nicholas. Tanya: "My grandfather was a coal miner, my grandmother was part Native American, my brother's wife is Japanese American and my sisters' husbands are Englishmen. My mother always said everyone would end up a shade of brown."





**Knott-Creech Family**

Above: Christmas Studio, 2004

Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Workshop, 2010

Susan and John were born in Evansville, Indiana. Henry and Angus, their sons, were born in Brooklyn. John: "My Irish great-grandmother held the sheriff at the door as my great-grandfather stole away to Ohio."







**Fairchild Family**

Above: Christmas Studio, 2003

Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Workshop, 2010

Annie is Chinese, from Hong Kong, and is an artist. Matt is from Texas and is a musician. Jion, their son, is from Brooklyn. When Jion was asked as a young child, "What's it like to be biracial?" he responded, "I really don't know. I wouldn't know what it's like to be not biracial."





**Maffucci Family**

Above: Christmas Studio, 2003

Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Studio, 2010

Maria and Bob are both Irish and Italian. Bob's father was an Italian immigrant. Their three children are Americans of blended European descent. Maria: "Our son, James, is on the autism spectrum. As a young child he was painfully withdrawn, but blossomed socially sometime in adolescence and now wants to meet everyone."





**Fleming-Garcia Family**

Above: Christmas Studio, 2003

Right: FiveMyles Gallery, Portrait Workshop, 2010

Jennifer is Ecuadorian and American, and adopted. Jose is Puerto Rican, from New York. Joaquin and Johnny were born and raised in Brooklyn. Jose: "My parents are from Puerto Rico. They met in the '60s in the Lower East Side that no longer exists due to gentrification."



## **Revisiting: In the Presence of Family: Brooklyn Portraits**

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