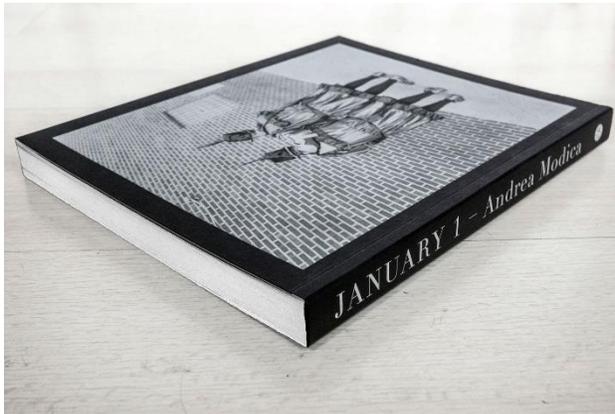


THE PRINT CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2018

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Cover and images from *January 1* by Andrea Modica, 2018, Photos: Courtesy of L'Artiere

BOOK LAUNCH
Thursday, April 19, 2018, 6:00 – 7:30pm
FOR THE NEWLY RELEASED TITLE
January 1
by Andrea Modica

PHILADELPHIA, PA - (March 21, 2018) The Print Center is pleased to announce an exclusive launch for renowned photographer **Andrea Modica**'s new photobook titled *January 1*. The publication presents a series of portraits the Philadelphia-based Modica has created over the last 10 years, by photographing the participants in the Mummer's Day Parade known as Wenchies each New Year's Day. Taken on 2 Street, these individuals stepped away from their revelry to pose for Modica, who captures the subject's complex history, which includes a celebration of family and community, in a disorienting combination with gender-bending dress and a reputation marred by racism, homophobia and misogyny.

"Each New Year's Day in Philadelphia, merrymakers from across the city converge on South Philadelphia for something that at times resembles a well-choreographed parade of highly skilled performers, and at other times is more of a sprawling, shambling mob of happy, boozy, (primarily) men in costumes. These are the Philadelphia Mummies. The event is an amalgamation of cultural traditions that has evolved in working-class

neighborhoods for over 300 years. Beginning as small bands of informal revelers scattered throughout the city, today's parade includes recognized performance divisions and organized clubs that compete within those divisions. The group represented by this collection of photographs are the Wenches, a subset of the Comic division, who hew most closely to the Mummers' anarchic, free-wheeling past. The all-male Wenches don female garb, including dresses, undergarments, purses, parasols, wigs, make-up and golden shoes, in tribute to the iconic song of Mummary, Oh, Dem Golden Slippers. The Wench tradition, and often the dresses themselves, are passed down from one generation to the next, with some groups including all the male members of a family, from young boys to great grandfathers.

Like so many clubs and teams, this group embodies a male mystique, a paradox of inclusion and exclusion that fueled my attention beyond the aesthetics of the parade."

- Andrea Modica, from *January 1*

The beautifully crafted book, *January 1* by Andrea Modica, was published by L'Artiere (Bentivoglio BO – Italy) in an edition of 700. The publication offers 27 tritone black and white plates reproduced at the same 10" x 8" size as Modica's original platinum/palladium contact prints, with a small border on deluxe paper of substantial heft. The luxe black cover is printed with silver ink.

**Please join us for a launch party with a book signing and reception at
The Print Center on Thursday, April 19, 2018, 6:00pm**

About *January 1*



On press at L'Artiere, Photos: Courtesy of L'Artiere

January 1 by Andrea Modica, 2018, L'Artiere (Bentivoglio BO – Italy), was designed by Teresa Piardi. 64 pages in length, it has 27 tritone plates, tout carton binding and sells for \$72. There is also a deluxe package with a limited edition 10" x 8" gelatin silver print offered for \$575, available at a special pre-order price of \$500 until April 18, 2018.

Signed books and deluxe packages are available through The Print Center Gallery Store, and can be ordered ahead of the April 19th launch event. To reserve your signed copy, contact Evan Laudenslager, Sales & Program Manager, at elaudenslager@printcenter.org, 215.735.6090 x2 or order **online**.



Andrea Modica photographing on January 1, 2017
Photo: © Mike Arrison

About Andrea Modica

Andrea Modica was born in New York City and lives in Philadelphia, where she works as a photographer and teaches at Drexel University. She is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Fulbright Scholar and the recipient of a Knight Award.

Her books include *Minor League* (1993, Smithsonian Press), *Treadwell* (1996, Chronicle Books), *Human Being* (2001, Nazraeli Press), *Barbara* (2004, Nazraeli Press), *Fountain* (2008, Stinehour Editions), *As We Wait* (2015, L'Artiere) and the new publication *January 1* (2018, L'Artiere). Also upcoming is Modica's monograph *Clinica Equina Bagnarola* (TIS Books) featuring photographs made at a horse clinic in Italy.

Modica's work has been included in dozens of publications, including *American Photo*, *Mother Jones*, *Newsweek*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine* and *Time Magazine*. She has exhibited extensively and has had solo exhibitions at the Cleveland Museum of Art; Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Her photographs are included in the permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Philadelphia Museum of Art; George Eastman Museum, Rochester; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris.
www.andreamodica.com, www.facebook.com/andreamodicaofficial

About L'Artiere

L'Artiere was founded in Bentivoglio BO – Italy in 2013 by brothers Gianluca and Gianmarco Gamberini. Born into a publishing family, the Gamberini's have focused the L'Artiere imprint on exceptional-quality, curatorially sophisticated, custom designed contemporary photography books.

About the Drexel University Photography Program

The **Drexel University Photography** program teaches students how to develop a unique photographic vision using a combination of aesthetics and technology. Using both applied and theoretical teaching methods and blending traditional processes with current digital technologies, the photography curriculum provides aspiring photographers with the breadth of experience and knowledge required to succeed in today's marketplace. The program has a world-class faculty including two Guggenheim Fellows. Our alumni achievements reflect the diversity built into the program. They own successful photography studios, teach in high school and college programs, serve as curators, work as magazine photo editors and operate their own digital-illustration firms.

<http://drexel.edu/westphal/academics/undergraduate/PHTO/>

About The Print Center

For more than a century, **The Print Center** has encouraged the growth and understanding of photography and printmaking as vital contemporary arts through exhibitions, publications and educational programs. The Print Center has an international voice and a strong sense of local purpose. Free and open to the public, it presents changing exhibitions which highlight established and emerging, local, national and international contemporary artists. It mounts one of the oldest art competitions in the country, now in its 93rd year, and its Gallery Store offers an extensive selection of contemporary prints and photographs from local, national and international artists.



**This program is co-sponsored by the
Drexel University Photography Program**

General Information

The Print Center

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Free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday 11:00am - 6:00pm

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