

Once Home @ The InLiquid Gallery on view: September
- October, 2020

Featuring: Howard Traivers and Khalif Rivers

Presented by InLiquid

Curated by Makeba "KEEBS" Rainey and Mat Tomezsko

Once Home is a two-person photography exhibition highlighting personal narrative as a tool of empowerment in a time of change. In the rapidly gentrifying areas of Philadelphia, the narrative of the neighborhood is often one of discovery, rather than an acknowledgment of the life and history of a place that has existed for generations. *Once Home* offers an intimate look at the often unseen histories, from two artists thoroughly embedded in the affected communities.

North Philly native Khalif Rivers is a self-taught photographer interested in capturing the remnants of industry hidden within the city's unique architecture. He has an uncanny ability to express emotion in photos void of human expression; primarily desolate urban landscapes. His work is an ode to Old Philadelphia that is instantly recognizable to long-term residents and life-long Philadelphians.

Howard Traivers is a self-taught photographer who began by shooting buildings slated for demolition on instamatics in the early 2000s. Traivers expanded his documentation to include abandoned industrial buildings, including the factory where his father was employed until it was shut down. What makes Traivers' work unique, especially among the community of photographers documenting industrial ruins, is his deep connection to the collapse of industry in Philadelphia. His family was a part of the working class that suffered when industries closed or moved abroad. In 2015, Traivers became homeless and took shelter in that factory, having become familiar with its safe rooms and passages through his artistic pursuits some years earlier. He lived on the site for a year and a half with his cat, shooting photographs. Traivers' story offers a glimpse of the personal cost of these social forces. He represents a more complete history of Philadelphia, one that is often overlooked or forgotten as industrial sites are more and more frequently renovated into condominiums, apartments, and studios.

The photographs of Rivers and Traivers are insightful and poetic, often finding what is beautiful, humorous, and strange in the midst of crumbling, abandoned structures. Their work offers a profoundly personal examination of Philadelphia's post-industrial landscape. Though tied closely to their individual journeys, the work illuminates forces that shape the urban environment and impact generations of people.