

SLUG MAG

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY

ISSUE
387

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ABOUT THE COVER: For our *Local Photography* issue cover, we selected **Lirica Castañeda's** *Morpho Aega*, 2019, from her *Kaleidoscope* series because of its interplay with light, color and—most of all—model **Adoula Biar's** ethereal presence. Find more of Castañeda's photography on Instagram @jeepers.creeper.

Kelly Williams

Contributor Limelight Photographer



Always eager to take on more photoshoots, Kelly Williams (aka **Bonneville Jones**) provides *SLUG* with an exuberant energy through his stylistic lens to every photo he takes. Recently, Williams has taken on the photo element for our online *Bold and Beautiful* column, which focuses on amplifying our local LGBTQ+ community. Williams' first official photo contribution to the magazine was for the **Trent Nelson** article in our 2019 *Local Photography* issue, so it felt suiting to celebrate and share our gratitude for Williams within this year's *Local Photography* issue. Check out Williams' most recent work on the *Veggie House* feature on pg. 20.

Roberto Valdez

Contributor Limelight Photographer



Roberto Valdez has been exercising his strength of putting an amazing image behind a story and providing a visual connection for *SLUG* readers since fall of 2019. "[*SLUG*] took a chance on me, a brown kid who loved photography and felt like he didn't have a platform, to show his skills and passions. Now I feel like my voice is heard," Valdez says. Whether he's taking photos for event galleries or portraits for a feature, Valdez puts professionalism and expertise at the forefront of his work. Visit Valdez's most recent contribution to the magazine, portraits of local photographer **Jacobo Funes**, on *SLUGMag.com*

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SLUG Mag stands with you in demanding equality and justice for all.

An Acronym for Salt Lake UnderGround, *SLUG Magazine's* mission is to amplify Salt Lake City's thriving alternative and underrepresented music, arts, lifestyle and events subcultures with thoughtful media coverage and exclusive event curation.

SLUG Mag recognizes the long history of racism and discrimination that continues to live in the independent arts and lifestyle communities we exist within and cover, not just here in Salt Lake but across the country. We're working internally to review our processes and practices to reevaluate whether we're truly accomplishing our core mission of diversity and inclusion across all the fields and disciplines we cover.

If you have any comments, questions or feedback for us, please reach out to our Execitive Editor, Angela H. Brown, at: angela@slugmag.com.



Self-taught, DIY photographer Lirica Castañeda uses popping colors and delicate portraiture to tell a glamorous story of diversity.

LIFE IN COLOR: Photographer Lirica Castañeda

Written by Avrey Evans • avreyevans21@gmail.com

PHOTO TITLE: “Maren,” 2020, from the *Panama Blue* series.



Jacobo Funes' (@afro_foo's) work embraces human subjects as simultaneously familiar and unknowable. His images, often shot on film and occasionally digital, center faces against environments that range from ethereal to hyper-mundane.

JUST BE LOVELY: Jacobo Funes

Written by Parker Scott Mortensen • [@_coldbloom](https://www.instagram.com/_coldbloom)

PHOTO TITLE: *Eternal Desire*, 2020.



Scrolling through fashion photographer **Jesus Rodriguez** (@jesusxvix)'s Instagram, beauty and diversity of the human form stand front and center.

JESUSVIX: Bringing Diversity to Utah Photography by Celebrating the Human Form

Written by Taylor Hartman • mr.taylor.hartman@gmail.com

PHOTO TITLE: *Esteftulle*, digital, 2019.



FORGET THE PHOTOGRAPHY, REMEMBER THE STORY: Photojournalist Rick Egan

Written by Marina McTee • mdawnmctee@gmail.com

TOP LEFT: Participants dance during the Black Lives Matter demonstration and Juneteenth celebration at Washington Square in Salt Lake City on Friday, June 19, 2020. Originally published via *The Salt Lake Tribune*.

TOP RIGHT: Campers who called *Camp Last Hope* home since mid-December gathered their belongings to move to another spot, as the Utah Health Department had given campers until 5 p.m. to vacate the area on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. Originally published via *The Salt Lake Tribune*.

BOTTOM: Terrance DH performs with **The Stench** at the *Fairgrounds* in 1987. Shot on Nikon F3 using Tribune-x 400 film, pushed to 1600 ISO.



karun_the_wzrd's (Karen Davis') photography floats in an ether, mashing together different eras into hazy film photos that depict surreal dream worlds.

FINDING BEAUTY IN ANACHRONISTIC AMBIGUITY: karun_the_wzrd
Written by Audrey Lockie • audrey@slugmag.com

ALL PHOTOS: *Untitled*, Film, 2020.

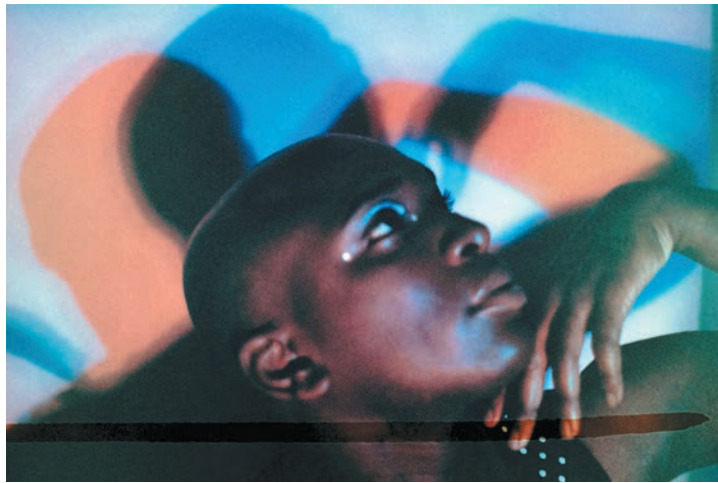
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Self-taught in experimental film photography techniques, Yexenia Young approaches her art with a desire to further each frame into another dimension. Browse her portfolio and you'll find kaleidoscopes of light and color, transcendent double exposures and sincere moments captured as vivid poetry. All neon and gossamer, Young's body of work is a glittering fever dream. "I hope [my photographs]

FINDING LIGHT IN DARK PLACES: The Film Photography of Yexenia Young
Written by Mekenna Malan • mekenna.malan@gmail.com

catch viewers off-guard and make them want to look deeper," she says. "I hope to inspire curiosity with a touch of solace, maybe even travel through space and time and connect with that magical feeling of waking up from a lucid dream, questioning your own reality."

TOP LEFT: "Technicolor Daze," 2020, from the Tremayne series.

TOP RIGHT: "Stargazer," 2019, from the Stardust series.

BOTTOM: "Discotheque En Rose," 2020, from the Spacegirl series.



AHLSTROM PHOTO: Escaping with Vibrant Memories **Written by Dillon Ely dillon.b.ely@gmail.com**

PHOTO TITLE: *Queer Spectra*, 2020.

Kyle Ahlstrom is the owner and sole proprietor of Salt Lake City's *Ahlstrom Photo* and provides clients with "light, color, art and notion," they say. When working

with clients, Ahlstrom determines the desired message to be communicated, combining colors and textures to allow the photo to speak.



There is an enigmatic, and perhaps pleasantly unsettling, quality to Jamie A. Kyle's assemblages. Collectively, they appear suspended outside time and space; yet taken discretely, they belong to a particular moment and place. They offer glimpses of objects—a photographic portrait, a scarf, the pages from a book—that are rich repositories of history and memory. Decontextualized, their full wealth of meanings is inaccessible to the viewer. Their fundamental unknowability is their immediate allure and renders them sobering. Rather than aspire to historicity, they embrace a furious eclecticism in which the crispness of the image cuts sharply through to assert the immediacy of direct experience.

Jamie A. Kyle's Transfiguration of the Commonplace

Written by Tobias Berggruen • tberggruen@gmail.com

PHOTO TITLE: *Annie in the Stars*, digital collage, 2021.

In addition to maintaining her own artistic practice, Kyle is active within the Salt Lake artistic community at large. Notably, she was involved in the founding of the *Downtown Artist Collective* (DAC). A cooperative run by artists for artists, the DAC fosters a spirit of collaboration and communication between local creative types. "Working

with the DAC has been a dream because of all the artists it put me in contact with," says Kyle. "I specifically noticed it broadened the types of artists I met; people with practices, techniques, backgrounds and visions very different from my own."

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VIRTUALIZED THE FERVORS

Photo by John Barkiple
Written by Kenz Waldon
waldonk95@gmail.com

(L-R) Dylan Almond, River Rose Haggerty and Bridger Ray Croxford's improvised jam sessions are the basis of how The Fervors write music.

Strike a pose! In honor of this month's *Local Photography* issue, it only seemed fitting for *Virtualized: An Online Concert Featuring Utah Bands* to feature three local acts that have their own flair with appealing visuals. Opening the show is **Skumbudz** with singer-songwriter **Valerie Rose Sterrett** and psych band The Fervors co-headling. Enjoy their performances on March 19 at 8 p.m. on *SLUG* Mag's YouTube Channel. Check out the full features for the *Virtualized* co-headliners at SLUGMag.com.

In 2018, the *Desert Daze Music Festival* was in full swing for all the feel-good attendees. The heavy-hitting psychedelic sounds that were swept up in the winds melted around all kinds of concertgoers. Two attendees in particular, **Bridger Croxford** and **Dylan Almond**, were completely drawn into this atmosphere,

inspiring them to create music within this same vein, eventually bringing on **River Rose Haggerty** to complete their trio. This began the formation of The Fervors, one of Salt Lake City's premiere neo-psych bands. Oddly enough, they say some of their best music moments have happened amongst the chaos that was 2020.

VIRTUALIZED VALERIE ROSE STERRETT

Photo by John Barkiple
Written by Kenz Waldon
waldonk95@gmail.com

Valerie Rose Sterrett's eclectic style transcends her fashion sense and extends into her music.

Ogden-based singer-songwriter Valerie Rose Sterrett is performing at this month's *Virtualized: An Online Concert Featuring Utah Bands* alongside **The Fervors** and **Skumbudz** on March 19. With roots in generations of vastly different musical backgrounds—such as a ragtime singer for a great aunt and a World War II paratrooper/soldier and show performer for a grandfather—Sterrett's prodigy-laden origin story has led her on a unique path for her music career. Her recent releases include an alt-rock rendition of the holiday hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and a single titled "This is My Day." This psyche-pop original—accompanied by an evocative music video with Sterrett sporting a

red-headed beehive hairdo—won "Best Original Song" for the independent film *Affective* at the 2020 *International Film Festival* in Venice, Italy. With this repertoire as evidence, Sterrett's craft is notable for its unconventionality in each release. She isn't afraid to expand past her largely folk-rock/psychedelic-influenced sound into whatever genre feels the most right. As she shifts her focus from performer to recording artist, we can anticipate Sterrett releasing more authentic tunes with eccentricities in the near future. Be ready to witness the force of Sterrett's performance live on March 19 at 8 p.m. on *SLUG*'s YouTube channel.



As a second-generation, biracial American, Sarah May's identity flows between different worlds. Her use of cyanotypes and multi-exposure photography brings into focus these crossroads between time, culture and language. Through her textiles and images, May explores her Salvadorian indigenous heritage and its place on her own spiritual path, uncovering who she is and how she can form bonds with her past and other marginalized people around her. Her artwork shows her connection with the past, the earth and the communities

Sarah May Uncovers Ancestors in Photographic Layers

Written by Hannah McBeth • hannahmcbeth22@gmail.com

PHOTO TITLE: What Was Taken, Retablo Altar, 2020.

that are often left out of mainstream notions of what it means to belong in the United States.

Through the connections and positive impacts she makes with her work at the YWCA in

Salt Lake, May brings together symbols and actions that contribute to the continual push to help BIPOC communities flourish. You can connect with May at sarahlizamay.com and on Instagram @sarahlizamay.

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Tasty Vegan Cravings at Veggie House

Written by Corinne Bauer
corinejbauer@icloud.com

Photo by bonnevillejones.com

Tucked into a small parking lot just off of Main Street and 1700 S in Salt Lake City sits a vegan and vegetarian gem carrying Asian classics, from curries

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to pho and sushi rolls. *Veggie House's* food is as beautiful as it is delicious, a culinary analog to the atmosphere provided by the restaurant's lush vegetation.

TOP-LEFT: Green Lover Sushi Roll, MIDDLE: Veggie Spring Roll
BOTTOM: Chicken Stir Fry

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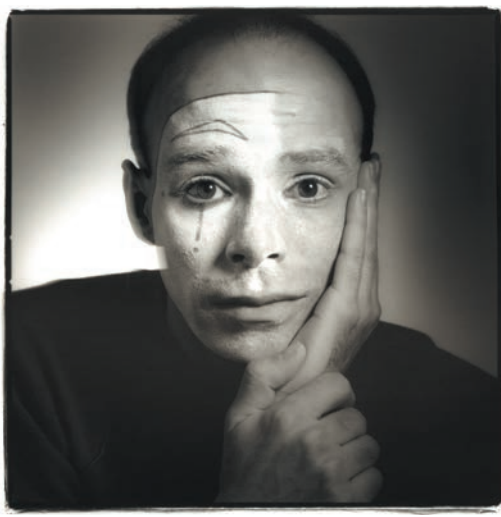
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If you have any comments, questions or feedback for us, please reach out to our Executive Editor, Angela H. Brown, at: angela@slugmag.com.



As a veteran SLCC educator, mentor and professional in SLC's photography community, Ed Rosenberger helps others find the best angle. At the core of Rosenberger's teaching and artistic methodology lies this conviction: "The light is there; all you need to do is capture it," he says. In understanding processes and tools, Rosenberger believes one can succeed in the act of creation. In his career, Rosenberger has applied this methodology to illuminate and transform everyday objects.

Making a Photograph with Ed Rosenberger

Written by Kia McGinnis Wray • mcginniskia@gmail.com

TOP LEFT: *Apple*, 1987, analog medium format/Hasselblad, transparency film. AAF-Utah "Addy"-award-winner and call-for-entries poster image.

TOP MIDDLE: *Joe Pitti*, 1990, analog medium format/Hasselblad, B&W film. Personal image created with artist/performer **Joe Pitti**, owner of *Cup of Joe* coffee house in SLC at the time.

TOP RIGHT: *Those Who Came Before Us*, 2017, 35mm digital image, personal image created while at Cliff Palace, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado.

BOTTOM: *Maid of the Mist*, 2002, 35mm digital image. Personal image created while at Niagara Falls.



SNOWY

Parker Szumowski finding some late light and soft snow in Grand Teton National Park, January 2021.

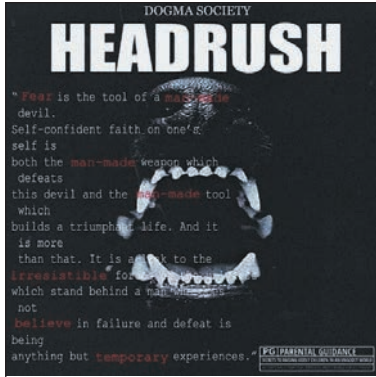
By Jack Dawe • [@wjackedawe](https://www.instagram.com/wjackedawe)



Parker Szumowski - Jackson, Wyoming

LOCAL MUSIC SINGLES ROUNDUP

As March settles in, the unhappy one-year anniversary of pandemic life trudges ever closer. Although we've seen concerts canceled, tickets refunded and tours postponed, the vibrancy of Salt Lake City's music scene perseveres through it all. In this month's *Local Music Singles Roundup*, let local artists remind you that music never dies—it vibrates in our memory until we meet again, and we will meet again one day.



DOGMA SOCIETY

"HEADRUSH" (Prod. SXINT)"
Self-Released
Street: 11.15
DOGMA SOCIETY = Three 6 Mafia x Backxwash

You can always be louder, angrier. In pursuit of accumulating aggression, "HEADRUSH," the debut single from the DOGMA SOCIETY collective, uses a no-frills posse cut structure to enter into the ever-running competition of finding the nastiest people alive. From the cold, laid-back precision of **Dirty Chino's** hook and first verse to **K8oh's** pun-heavy triplet takedowns, the shouted franticness shared by **Nube\$** and **Lord Sinek** to the bed of blown-out bass supporting everyone, each element of "HEADRUSH" fills in a different section of the paint-by-numbers until the whole thing drips with blinding reds and blacks.
—Audrey Lockie



Kin Lodge

"Snakeroot"
Culture's Verse
Street: 10.02
Kin Lodge = Volcano Choir + Phoebe Bridgers + Iron & Wine

Through poignant lyricism and subtle instrumentation, Kin Lodge's new track, "Snakeroot," paints sorrowful vignettes highlighting the effects of seemingly insignificant details in life. The lyrics may seem nonsensical superficially, but meaning is found on a deeper, more soulful level. The track starts softly, with dreamy keys echoing next to vocals that grow with urgency. Kin Lodge slowly bring more instruments into prominence with every verse, from careful horns to delicate percussion and a discreet, softly plucked banjo. After showing restraint, "Snakeroot" culminates in a roaring guitar passage that makes you want to scream into the sky. With this track, Kin Lodge have created a gorgeous catharsis that never leaves you. —Marina McTee



OBAÿASHI

"Sensation"
Blaq Void
Street: 01.29
OBAÿASHI = Gorgon City + Shiba San


"What do you know about Acid House music?" Local house artist OBAÿASHI has released an enticing single for electronic music lovers. Built on high-tempo bass drums and classic house claps, the upbeat "Sensation" is hypnotizing. Ghostly vocals add depth to the forceful bass, and the looped beats are unique enough to avoid monotony. Intense kick drums accelerate toward a release that demands dancing. Listening to this song brings me back to packed nights at *Sky's Therapy Thursdays*, moving bodies pulsing to each carefully curated drop. "Sensation" is a welcome reminder that Salt Lake is full of electric potential. Listen to OBAÿASHI on SoundCloud and follow them on Instagram @obayashi_official. —Avrey Evans



Winter Grain

"Fists"
Self-Released
Street: 01.20
Winter Grain = Bea Miller x Maja Kristina

Released on inauguration day, the single "Fists" from Winter Grain is, simply put, a powerhouse. From the gentle, intriguing melody to the duo's soaring vocals, there's nothing simple about this song. The build up to the chorus and, later on, the empowering drums in the bridge serve as both a call to action and nod to what has transpired, as a new political era in our country is ushered in. "We put it to bed, threw dirt on the grave," Winter Grain croons. Yet, despite the empowering energy of this song, "Fists" is also soft and gentle, almost like now both the artists and the listeners can take a much needed breath. —Palak Jayswal



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MUSIC REVIEWS



Katy Kirby – Cool Dry Place
(Keeled Scales, 02.19)
Katy Kirby = Lomelda + Julia Jacklin
–Mekenna Malan



Tyler Holmes – Nightmare in Paradise
(Ratskin Records, 03.26)
Tyler Holmes = Midwife + Wizard Apprentice
+ Denitia
–Audrey Lockie

Read full reviews at SLUGMag.com.



BEER OF THE MONTH

By Chris and Sylvia Hollands
chris.hollands@porchdrinking.com
sylvia.hollands@porchdrinking.com
Photo by Chris Hollands

Beer Name:
Oat Pale Lager
Brewery:
Bewilder Brewing Co.

ABV: 4.9%

Serving Style: 32-ounce crowler

Bewilder Brewing Co.'s Oat Pale Lager makes us think we are in for a crisp and clean brew with the best of what's there—an absence of noise. The pale portion leads us to believe there may be a little play on the India Pale Lager, which is also a favorite in our household because it seems to satisfy both of our palates nicely. Now what about this oat component? It's something that makes our minds swirl.

After stopping into Bewilder's lovely taproom, we were greeted by a nice gentleman who helped us with a couple crowlers of their Oat Pale Lager. Returning home, we cracked open a 32-ounce beast and set upon learning what makes this beer tick. During the pour into a nonic pint glass, we were greeted with a light-yellow liquid that forms a dazzling white head of foam. The beer has pleasant aromas of florals and grain. The oat element has done things to this beer that make it a special concoction. Upon the first sip, this smooth-mouthfeel brew delivered a first pop of citrus and finished nice and clean. This beverage is a beautiful, tightly-pulled-off beer from one of Utah's newest breweries.

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By CJ Anderson • @cjd_visual

My favorite part about this photo of Shay Despain is how the shadow from the overhang on the building frames him. I have been on this artsy-fartsy kick recently, trying to take photos that look like a good photo as a whole but also can capture how badass skateboarding is!



Shay Despain – Noslide – SLC, Utah

LOCAL MUSIC REVIEWS



Cupid Come – Stupid Dumb
(Self-Released, 7.10)
Cupid Come = Tennis System + Snail Mail
–Billy Swartzfager



Nicholas James – Somebody New
(Whysound Records, 06.29)
Nicholas James = James Bay x Joni Mitchell
–Palak Jayswal

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FOR ALL SERVICES & JEWELRY PURCHASES

2459 SOUTH MAIN STREET, STE. 6

BOUNTIFUL, UTAH
801-397-2459



DISTANCED ENTERTAINMENT

MARCH 2021

METRO MUSIC HALL

3/5: JRC BOUTIQUE SPRING LAUNCH NIGHT #1 Z

3/5: JRC BOUTIQUE SPRING LAUNCH NIGHT #2

3/12: BROADWAY DIVAS • 3/13: BROADWAY DIVAS

3/19: TARA'S PRETTY PRINCESS BDAY & DRAG SHOW

3/20: BROADWAY DIVAS • 3/21: BROADWAY DIVAS

3/27: BROADWAY DIVAS • 3/28: BROADWAY DIVAS

URBAN LOUNGE

3/5: SCENIC BYWAY • 3/6: ARK ANIMALZ:

3/12: JOEL WILLES ALBUM RELEASE • 3/13: LORD VOX

3/19: HIFI MURDER • 3/20: THE PSYCHSOMATICS ALBUM RELEASE

3/26: 90S TV • 3/27: JRC PRESENTS

KILBY COURT

3/4: CHECKERED HOMES • 3/5: SOAP • 3/6: HOBOSAPIEN • 3/11: VANN MOON

3/12: BACKHAND • 3/13: SUNFISH • 3/18: JONZEY ALBUM RELEASE

3/19: MITOKANDREA • 3/20 SQUID PICNICS • 3/25: RAD HABITS

3/26: TOOTHPICKS • 3/27: KIPPER SNACK - SOLD OUT

TICKETS AND INFO ON OUR NEW SAFE SHOW PRACTICES
CAN BE FOUND AT 24TIX.COM // MASKS REQUIRED

S&S
PRESENTS

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