

Richard Renaldi: Touching Strangers



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Since 2007, Richard Renaldi has been working on a series of photographs that involve approaching and asking complete strangers to physically interact while posing together for a portrait. Working on the street with a large format eight-by-ten-inch view camera, Renaldi encounters the subjects for his photographs in towns and cities all over the United States. He pairs them up and invites them to pose together, intimately, in ways that people are usually taught to reserve for their close friends and loved ones. Renaldi creates spontaneous and fleeting relationships between strangers, for the camera, often pushing his subjects beyond their comfort levels. These relationships may only last for the moment the shutter is released, but the resulting photographs are moving and provocative, and raise profound questions about the possibilities for positive human connection in a diverse society. Following an extremely successful Kickstarter effort which raised nine times its goal, *Touching Strangers* will have an extensive social media campaign. Visit touchingstrangers.org for more information.

Richard Renaldi (born 1968) graduated from New York University with a BFA in photography in 1990. He has presented solo exhibitions both in the United States and abroad, including at Fotografins Hus, Stockholm; Robert Morat Galerie, Hamburg, Germany; and Yossi Milo Gallery, New York. Renaldi's work has also appeared in group exhibitions, including *Strangers: The First ICP Triennial of Photography and Video* at the International Center of Photography in New York (2003). *Touching Strangers* is Renaldi's third book, following *Figure and Ground* (Aperture, 2006) and *Fall River Boys* (Charles Lane Press, 2009).



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