

The Time has Come

AN INNOVATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO EXHIBITION, *NOT ANOTHER SECOND*, BRINGS LGBT+ SENIORS' STORIES TO LIFE

—ALMIE ROSE

“I think in our world nowadays, there’s a lack of humanity,” proclaims award-winning German photographer Karsten Thormaehlen. “I think people don’t care enough for each other.”

But art is perhaps a remedy. Thormaehlen’s latest photography exhibit, *Not Another Second*, is an introspective and interactive experience focused on the stories of LGBT+ seniors who refused to spend another second hiding who they really are. Their stories could perhaps build a bridge between ignorance and acceptance, fear and hope, shame and pride. Above all, they may help people connect.

As Thormaehlen elaborates on *notanothersecond.com*, “[People] don’t care for each other’s lives, you know, they don’t care for each other’s histories and the personal stories, and this is what we try to bring out not only with the photograph but also with the interviews. Some of the people I photographed were hiding half of their lives or even longer.”

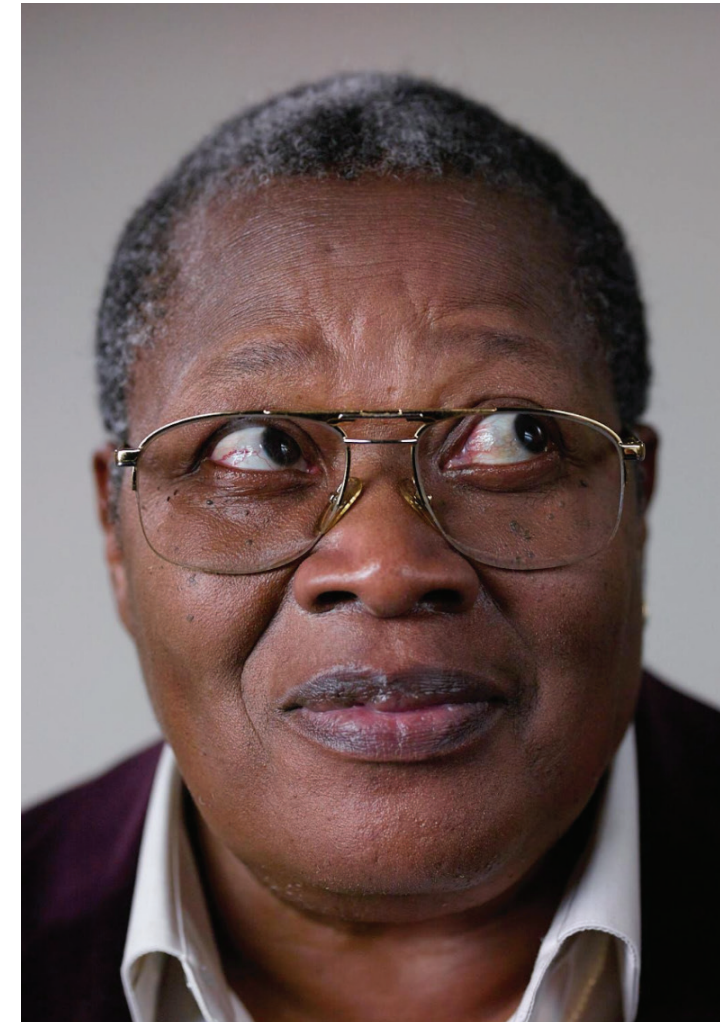
The interviews span a range of genders, races, and ethnicities of LGBT+ seniors ranging from their late sixties to mid-eighties but perhaps the most interesting — and poignant — statistic is their personal “number of years lost.” For Paul Barby, the first openly gay man to run for U.S. Congress, that number is 61, meaning Barby didn’t come out until he was 61 years old. That equals roughly 1,923,696,000 seconds.

Barby’s story is one of 12 told in *Not Another Second*, which is available free to the public with a reservation. It’s appropriately housed in the Art Pavilion at The Watermark at Westwood Village, Los Angeles’s newest and most innovative senior living community.

Like the living community, the exhibition also utilizes modern



LUIJIRA COOPER, ONE OF 12 PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES ARE SHARED IN THE *NOT ANOTHER SECOND* EXHIBITION.



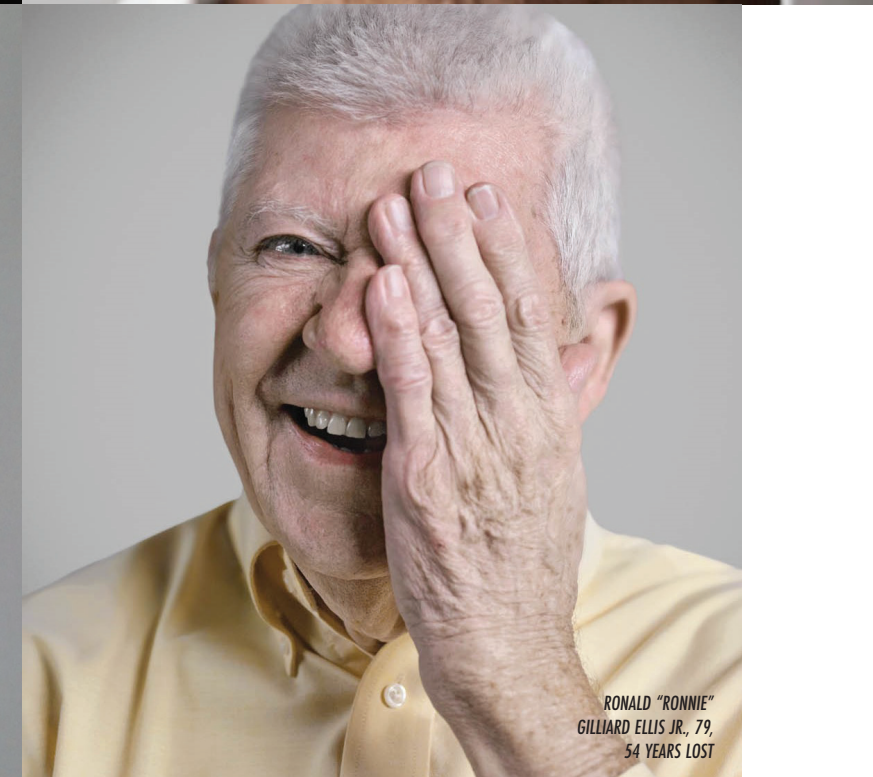
MARK GUSTAFSON, 74, 40 YEARS LOST



PAULETTE THOMAS-MARTIN, 68, AND WIFE, PAT MARTIN, 68, (LEFT), 56 YEARS LOST, COLLECTIVELY



RONALD "RONNIE" GILLIARD ELLIS JR., 79, 54 YEARS LOST



technology. The interviews are cleverly masqueraded as portraits. It isn’t until the viewer approaches the portrait with their smartphone to scan the QR code that it suddenly comes alive as a video. This is done using Augmented Reality technology through Kaleida Studio and their app. This allows the viewer to experience old-fashioned one-on-one storytelling in a completely new and unique way.

These stories come from activists present at the Stonewall Uprising to closeted naval officers to an Anti-Vietnam War demonstrator. Their stories are about America as much as they are about themselves. Their hope is to inspire future generations to spend each and every second as their authentic selves in all the ways they couldn’t in their youth.

“Older people are good to listen to and to learn from,” Thormaehlen surmises of his current project. “And this is what young people have to understand, because young people don’t have the life experience that a 70-, 80-year-old person has. That’s something you just cannot find clicking the internet. You need to see, and be, and share with these people, their stories.” ☺

You can see, be and share these stories every Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday from January 28, 2023 through June 29, 2023 at the Art Pavilion at The Watermark at Westwood Village, 947 Tiverton Avenue, Los Angeles. Reservations are required and free to make at EventBrite.com. Details about the exhibition are available at notanothersecond.com.