NEW YORK, NY (November 24, 2014) – The Design Trust for Public Space announces the release of *Life Along the Elevated*, a monograph of social documentary photographs by the Design Trust Photo Urbanism Fellow Krisanne Johnson. Produced as part of Design Trust’s *Under the Elevated* project, *Life Along the Elevated* boasts 26 black-and-white photographs portraying daily life along elevated transit infrastructure in New York City, including bridges, highways, subway tracks and rail lines. The publication includes an interview with Krisanne Johnson by Whitney Johnson, Director of Photography at *The New Yorker*.

Krisanne Johnson spent a year exploring and documenting how NYC’s massive transit system and the millions of square feet of public space below it influence life in the city. The resulting photographs featured in this book draw a captivating journey through the city – along the 2 and 5 subway tracks in the Bronx, beneath the Manhattan Bridge in Chinatown, along the JMZ subway tracks in Brooklyn, and underneath the Metro-North line in East Harlem. Local residents have, in some cases, adopted and embraced these underused spaces for recreation, music, dance and community gatherings. They recognize the incredible potential to transform these areas into productive space.

“Public space is where our cities come alive and demonstrate their vitality, culture and local pride. As a nonprofit dedicated to the future of public space in New York City, the Photo Urbanism program supports our mission by harnessing the power of photography to highlight, in a visually compelling way, the vital role public space plays in our lives – and what makes our city worth living,” said Megan Canning, director, Photo Urbanism Program; and deputy director, Design Trust for Public Space.

Design Trust awarded its seventh Photo Urbanism Fellowship to Krisanne Johnson in 2013 to support and inform the organization’s current project, *Under the Elevated: Reclaiming Space, Connecting Communities*. Developed in partnership with the New York City Department of Transportation, *Under the Elevated* is focused on redesigning underused spaces underneath elevated infrastructure into vibrant streetscapes and active neighborhoods.

“The reality is the elevated looks beautiful from afar, especially at sunset, but after spending a great deal of time photographing along it, you quickly notice the intense noise pollution, the poor lighting, and the chaotic nature of a transit hub. And these conditions are exactly what the *Under the Elevated* project is trying to improve,” noted Krisanne Johnson.
“The temporary public installations we’ve developed as part of the Under the Elevated project – the interactive community calendar underneath the Manhattan Bridge in Chinatown, and an open-air music and resting booth beneath the elevated Freeman Street station on the 2 and 5 lines in the Bronx – will inspire a systemic change across the city. We will unleash the potential of these neglected spaces and Krisanne’s vivid images are instrumental in building this revolutionary momentum,” said Susan Chin, executive director, Design Trust for Public Space.

Life Along the Elevated is available for purchase on Design Trust’s website at http://shop.designtrust.org

9 x 12 in / 23 x 30 cm
56 pp
$25

About Krisanne Johnson
Krisanne Johnson is a documentary photographer based in Brooklyn, NY. She graduated with a degree in journalism from the University of Colorado and pursued postgraduate work in visual communications at Ohio University.

Johnson’s work has been recognized by World Press Photo, Pictures of the Year International, and the Best of Photojournalism. Her Swaziland pictures, titled, I Love You Real Fast, has received the W. Eugene Smith Grant in Humanistic Photography, a Getty Images Grant for Editorial Photography, and support from the Magnum Foundation Emergency Fund. Her work has appeared in TIME, The New Yorker, Fader Magazine and The New York Times, among others.

For more information, please visit http://designtrust.org/people/fellows/krisanne-johnson/

About Photo Urbanism
An ongoing program of the Design Trust for Public Space, Photo Urbanism provides fellowships to photographers to create a body of work about the role of public space in New York City.

In 2011, Design Trust adopted a new curatorial approach to the program, by linking the fellowship more directly to an active Design Trust project. By focusing the fellowship on a particular public space issue, Design Trust gives the photographer access to communities and sites they would be unable to enter alone. In turn, the photographer’s artistic vision brings a new perspective, informing and illuminating the potential of our city’s undiscovered and underused public spaces.

The first fellowship awarded under these new guidelines went to Rob Stephenson to work in tandem with our Five Borough Farm project. Krisanne Johnson received the second fellowship in 2013 to work in tandem with our Under the Elevated project.

Jurors for the 2013 Photo Urbanism included: Iwan Baan, photographer; Linda Pollak, founding partner, Marpillero Pollak Architects; Susanna Sirefman, Founder, Dovetail Design Strategists; Mark Robbins, President and CEO, American Academy in Rome; Rob Stephenson, photographer and winner of the 2011 Photo Urbanism Fellowship; Erica Stoller, director, Esto Photographics; Paul Warchol, Paul Warchol Photography.

For more information, please visit http://designtrust.org/programs/2013-photo-urb/

About The Design Trust for Public Space
The Design Trust for Public Space is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the future of public space in New York City. Our projects bring together city agencies, community groups and private sector experts to make a lasting impact—through design—on how New Yorkers live, work and play.

Design Trust’s projects jumpstarted the High Line’s conversions from derelict railway to a green corridor of open space, activated innovation for the first custom-built Taxi of Tomorrow, and developed the sustainability guidelines that became the precursor to New York City’s Local Law and PlaNYC.

Life Along the Elevated is made possible by Larry Lederman and: