

Susan Eley  

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Fine Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 1, 2019

*Voices of Parkland*  
*Portraits by Jeff Vespa*



June 5 - June 20, 2019



Opening Reception: Wednesday, June 5, 6-8pm

Panel Discussion: Thursday, June 6, 6-8pm

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Susan Eley Fine Art is pleased to present ***Voices of Parkland: Portraits by Jeff Vespa***, opening with a reception on Wednesday, June 5, and a panel discussion on Thursday, June 6, 2019. The exhibition will run through June 20, 2019.

On February 14, 2018 fourteen students and three faculty members were murdered at **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School** in Parkland, Florida. This was one of the deadliest school shootings in United States history. Immediately after the shooting **Emma Gonzalez, David Hogg, Aalayah Eastmond** and other students spoke out against the shooting and began campaigning to end gun violence.

Inspired by these students, **Jeff Vespa** traveled to Florida to photograph and interview the students, their teachers and the parents of the victims. Over the course of the next few months, Vespa captured over 50 portraits and video testimonials, which were featured in ***People Magazine, Buzz Feed News*** and ***The Hollywood Reporter***.

Following an exhibition with Bruce Lurie Gallery in Los Angeles, CA to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the shooting, SEFA will be exhibiting Vespa's portraits along with video testimonials of firsthand accounts from the tragic day.

In an effort to help stop gun violence we must keep telling these stories in as many ways as possible. Proceeds from this exhibition will benefit **Brady United Against Gun Violence**.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

A panel discussion will be held on Thursday, June 6th from 6 - 8pm at Susan Eley Fine Art. The panel will be moderated by **Brian Lemek**, Vice President of Development at Brady, and include **Jeff Vespa**, student survivor **Kai Koerber** and **Manny Oliver**, father of Parkland victim Joaquin Oliver and an artist-activist. Proceeds will benefit **Brady United Against Gun Violence**.

Tickets are \$50 per person and are limited. They can be purchased through Eventbrite at [www.eventbrite.com/e/voices-of-parkland-panel-discussion-tickets-61652933584](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/voices-of-parkland-panel-discussion-tickets-61652933584)

## ABOUT JEFF VESPA

Jeff Vespa is one of the co-founders of WireImage, the entertainment photo agency. His photography has been featured in numerous publications including *Vanity Fair*, *New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Wall Street Journal* and *People Magazine*. In 2007, WireImage sold to GettyImages. Vespa was previously the Editor-at-Large for *LIFE Magazine's LIFE.com* and the West Coast Special Projects Editor of *Los Angeles Confidential Magazine*. He recently directed his first feature film *Paris Song*.

## ABOUT BRADY UNITED AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Brady has one powerful mission — to unite all Americans against gun violence. We work across Congress, the courts, and our communities with over 90 grassroots chapters, bringing together young and old, red and blue, and every shade of color to find common ground in the common sense. In the spirit of our namesakes Jim and Sarah Brady, we have fought for over 45 years to take action, not sides, and we will not stop until this epidemic ends. It's in our hands.

[www.bradyunited.org](http://www.bradyunited.org)

