Renee Allie

William Parker was inspirational; he taught with an exuberance and knowledge of the material that was unprecedented. I seem to remember him putting his whole body into teaching. Moving about the room with energy and enthusiasm, he exhibited a kind of manic flair for presenting the subject that was so unlike any of my other college instructors; it was a portal into a world outside of my own experience and it was exciting!

Bill was always completely authentic to who he was, so honest in presenting himself both in his work and as a person. His work was fierce and unapologetic, and it shocked some people. Watching someone with so much passion for his own work and for the medium was a drug to a young, unformed person like me and it made me get in touch with my own passion for the arts.

Over the years I have thought of the many people who influenced my work and created the passion that I have for photography, and few were as deeply influential as Bill. He made me appreciate the medium both as an art form and as a tool for documentation and education. I have used photography over the years for many things, but I always come back to the distinct personal vision that he inspired. I am proud to present myself in my work, just like Bill did.

Artist Bio: **Renée Allie**

Renée grew up in Storrs, Connecticut, home of the *University of Connecticut*. In High School, she excelled in art classes of multiple disciplines, received awards and attended continuing education classes at the University. She continued studies at *State University College (SUNY) at New Paltz*, *Studio Art Centers International* in Florence, Italy; and in 1983 received a Bachelor of Arts at the *University of Connecticut*.

In 1984 she moved to New Orleans, Louisiana where she has lived since.
She was a co-owner of *Icons Gallery* in 1991-93 and owned *Rabbit Ears* and later *Malarky Art* and *Ellipsis Gallery* from 2011 to 2024.

She served on the board of *Recycle for the Arts* and was a key officer of the *New Orleans Photo Alliance*. Her work has shown at the *New Orleans Museum of Art*, the *Contemporary Arts Center*, the *Ogden Museum of Southern Art* and in many local and regional galleries. In 2024 she received an award for the best black and white photograph at the Montgomery, Alabama Photo Festival.