



Introduction to Zachary Balber. 2:01 min. Interview: Raymond Elman. Videography & Production: Justin Mendiola. Recorded: 2/3/2020, Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU.

# Zachary Balber: Photographer

By Elman + Mendiola

“Editor’s Note: This video interview is part of The Esther Paster & Rick Grossman Inspicio Photography Series.”

**ZACHARY BALBER** was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and moved to Miami at the age of 13, where he received his first camera. Later, while attending New World School of the Arts, he was hired to the fashion photographer Bruce Webber in his campaigns for Abercrombie & Fitch, Vera Wang, and *Vanity Fair* magazine.

Balber graduated Summa Cum Laude from New World School of the Arts, majoring in creative photography. His work has been exhibited at Art Basel Miami Beach, the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, American Jewish University (LA), FAU Museum OCCA, MOCA, NOAMI, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, (CIFO) Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Locust Projects, Spinello Gallery, Fredric Snitzer Gallery, The Armory, the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, Art Hong Kong, and Primary Projects.

— [zacharybalber.com](http://zacharybalber.com)

The videos below are organized by topic and run between 30 seconds and 6 minutes. Click on any video. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos.



“TAMIM” AT THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA – FIU (2020): 3:12 min. Videography: Thomas Heslop

**INSIGHT & INSPIRATION:**  
1:08 min.



*What is your first memory of art of any discipline?*

**CRITICAL THINKING:**  
3:51 min.



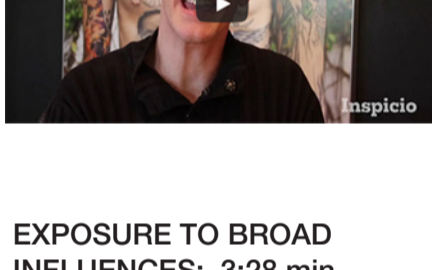
*What is the backstory of your Jews with full-body tattoos portrait series?*

**OVERCOMES CHALLENGES TO SUCCEED:** 4:21 min.



*What was it like to grow up with a jazz musician father and writers in the rest of your nuclear family?*

**DEVELOP A VOICE:** 1:43 min.



*What does “Tamim,” your traveling exhibition of photographs of Jews with full-body tattoos, mean for you?*

**EXPOSURE TO BROAD INFLUENCES:** 3:28 min.



*Describe the evolution of your involvement / experience with photography.*

**UNDERSTANDS THE BUSINESS OF ART:** 5:38 min.



*Describe the evolution of your photography career.*

**CREATES A UNIQUE PERSONAL BRAND:** 6:07 min.



*Is this the first series of portraits you made for exhibition purposes? What was your inspiration and approach to Tamim?*

**CREATES A UNIQUE PERSONAL BRAND:** 3:18 min.



*One of the salient things about your exhibition is the most obvious headline — “Jews with Tattoos.” It’s what makes people say, “I really want to see that!”*

**COMMUNITY VALUES:**  
1:27 min.



*Did you know all of these people prior to photographing them?*

**COLLABORATION:** 1:25 min.



*What was it like working with gallerist Fredric Snitzer?*

**CRITICAL THINKING:** 2:08 min.



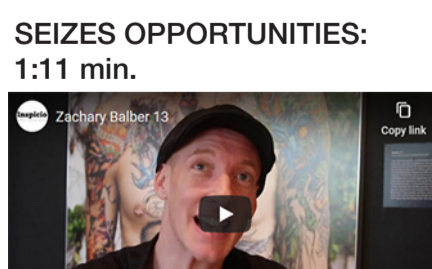
*What does your exhibition say about being Jewish?*

**COLLABORATION:** 0:35 sec.



*Who wrote the wall text for your exhibition?*

**SEIZES OPPORTUNITIES:**  
1:11 min.



*Where did this exhibition originate — Kansas?*

**UNDERSTANDS ARTISTS’ NEEDS:** 1:32 min.



*Are there any plans for this show to travel?*

**BREAKS THE RULES:**  
1:16 min.



*Do you have a new body of work in progress?*