

DREAM & SAY CHEESE. Worldwide photo shoot to focus on N.Y. immigrants

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Body

BROOKLYN ARTIST Justin Tellian is a dreamer - and his work proves he's not the only one, especially in **New York**.

Tellian, 33, has been doing justice to John Lennon - who sang about dreamers in his classic song "Imagine" - by undertaking a quixotic quest to photograph people who see themselves in that light.

His **worldwide** journey to snap shots of self-professed dreamers will bring him to Queens on Saturday, where he will turn his lens on the city's **immigrant** youth. He has been taking joyful group photographs in cities from Berlin to Tokyo, inviting anyone who thinks of themselves as a dreamer to show up and pose.

He usually defines the word "dreamer" loosely. But for his final **shoot** - planned for 1 p.m. in front of the Unisphere in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park - he's extending a special invitation to **immigrant** youth who use the word as a way to shed hated labels like "illegal" or "alien."

Undocumented college students who came to the U.S. as children call themselves "dreamers" because they would qualify for a green card under the stalled federal **DREAM** Act.

"Being a dreamer, to me, I guess, means to be able to look beyond society and the barriers that have been pushed down your throat by religion, or government, or money, or anything like that," he **said**. "To ask questions, to want more for yourself and your fellow man."

Tellian uses an old-fashioned, large format 8"x10" box camera, so he can print portraits up to 12 feet high. He enlists one person at each **shoot** to carry a big flag with the word "**dream**" in the host country's language.

The only rule? Everyone must wear white, la Lennon in his "Imagine" video. "Just as a way to unify everybody," Tellian **said** of the wardrobe requirement. "And it's very pretty to do it that way."

Queensboro Community College student Lucia Allain, 19, plans to be there with fellow members of **Dream** Scholars, the undocumented support group she founded.

"To us, 'dreamer' means an undocumented student," **said** Allain, who came to the U.S. from Peru when she was 10. "We believe in what we do, and in the path we're walking ... We're not aliens; we're not green. We're normal people." epearson@nydailynews.com

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Graphic

Justin Tellian brings his Dreamers project to Flushing Meadows- Corona Park in Queens Saturday. **Photo** by Mariela Lombard

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