



International Center of Photography

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media release



Perspectives 2010

Carol Bove
Lena Herzog
Matthew Porter
Ed Templeton
Hong-An Truong

On view from
May 21
through
September 12, 2010

Media Preview
May 20, 2010
11:30 am–1:00 pm

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The International Center of Photography is pleased to present *Perspectives 2010: Carol Bove, Lena Herzog, Matthew Porter, Ed Templeton, Hong-An Truong*, the inaugural installment of a new annual series focusing on significant recent works by contemporary artists, photographers, and filmmakers. The exhibition will be on view at ICP (1133 Avenue of the Americas at 43rd Street) from May 21 through September 9, 2010, and is organized by Brian Wallis, ICP Deputy Director for Exhibitions and Collections & Chief Curator. The “Perspectives” series continues ICP’s ongoing exploration of the most exciting projects by emerging and less familiar photographers initiated in its award-winning Triennial exhibitions.

“This is a critical moment,” states Wallis, “in which the questions about the constructions of history and memory are not just theoretical ideas but issues pertinent to daily life. Transformations in the making and interpretation of images, driven forward now mainly by digital technologies, have made ever more urgent our understanding of how historical meanings are invented in the present. What is impressive about this group of artists is their very diverse explorations of the contested relationship between the pulsing flow of images that define our daily life and the appropriated archive of historical imagery.”

Although the “Perspectives” exhibitions are intended to be non-thematic group shows, inevitably there are associations between the artists. Most notably, while these five are united in their reliance on the photographic image, their uses of photography often take unexpected forms. Some of them rely on installations or room-size ensembles of photographic objects to communicate their ideas. Found or appropriated images and concepts are often the raw materials of their practices, and they are often engaged with other mediums in addition to photography, including writing, drawing, sculpture, filmmaking, bookmaking, and performance.

These artists are not concerned only with the photographic medium, whether it is the formal qualities of photography in transition or the newly defined digital features of the photographic print. Instead, they focus on the subjects of photography, and its means of defining and describing critical social, political, or even philosophical issues.



Carol Bove
Das Energi, 2005-6
Wood and metal shelves, magazine page, books, feather, concrete, mirror
65 x 110 x 12 inches / 165, 1 x 279, 4 x 30, 5 cm
Photograph by Thomas Müller
Courtesy of the artist and Kimmerich, New York

Carol Bove (American, b. 1971)

Many of Bove's earlier works focused on shelf-based collections of books and objects that referenced past historical moments or moods, often centering on the turbulent 1960s. Her more recent work has adapted room-sized installations or settings that establish associations between various types of sculptural objects, both natural and manmade. Her precise Minimalist settings draw together raw materials as diverse as peacock feathers and driftwood, books and pop culture images, creating evocative symbolic references.



Lena Herzog
Untitled #11, Vrolijk Museum, Amsterdam, Holland, 2008
Matted silver gelatin print, split toned
22" x 28"
© Lena Herzog
Courtesy of the artist

Lena Herzog (Russian, b. 1970)

Lost Souls records Lena Herzog's journey into the world of Cabinets of Wonder and Curiosities, precursors to the modern museum. Containing objects discovered in travels to unknown territories, especially the New World, these cabinets sought to illustrate and explain the universe and new sciences. It was an era of map making, of filling in the blanks and naming the unnamable, doubting the unquestionable.

This new delineation of geographical boundaries and human identity was one of the most fascinating and subversive events in the history of ideas, and it triggered a debate over fundamental religious and philosophical questions. *Lost Souls* takes us into this world rarely seen by outsiders. Having been granted access to the early cabinets *Wunderkammern* and to the first medical museums, Herzog has photographed their mysteries with a sense of beauty, wonder and tenderness. Her subjects are mostly infants born with genetic defects that prevented their survival, and although they have been preserved as scientific specimens, some for hundreds of years, they are profoundly transformed through Herzog's lens into beings who mirror our own longings, fears, and existential dilemmas.



Matthew Porter
Empire, 2010
Archival pigment print
Edition of 5
43" X 56"
© Matthew Porter
Courtesy of M + B

Matthew Porter (American, b. 1975)

In his dramatic, almost cinematic photographs, Matthew Porter establishes an unsettling relationship between history and imagination. His sun-drenched muscle cars excerpted from 1970s television fly just too high over their city streets, evoking youthful masculine fantasies. Capitalizing on the inherent narrative implied in any juxtaposition of images, Porter has moved toward increasingly improbable installations of unrelated photographs, such as cowboys in Western landscapes alongside invented images of Nazi-era dirigibles.



Ed Templeton
Bird Release, San Clemente, 2007
Color photograph
© Ed Templeton
Courtesy of Roberts & Tilton, Culver City, CA

Ed Templeton (American, b. 1972)

Known as much for his intense observations of the chaotic lives of suburban youth as for his professional skateboarding accomplishments, Ed Templeton is an acute chronicler of the turbulent life going on around him. His highly personal photographs and installations exist alongside his paintings, graphic designs, and writings as a vivid and perpetually unfinished diary. But they also stand as a profound meditation on the meaning of everyday life, embodied in questions of life and death, love and beauty, hope and desire.



Hong-An Truong
Video still from *The Past is a Distant Colony, 2007*
Digital video
Black & white with sound
Dimensions variable
© Hong-An Truong
Courtesy of the artist

Hong-An Truong (American, b. 1976)

In her video series *Adaptation Fever* (2006–07), Hong-An Truong uses found film footage to explore the lost history of French Colonial Viet Nam. Her psychologically inflected vignettes use a variety of disruptive techniques, such as mirrored images and truncated English subtitles, to suggest our distanced and disjointed perceptions of the past. Aimed at a Western audience, the quartet deliberately attempts to reconsider notions of postcolonial subjectivity, power, and nostalgia, even without memory or experience.

Funding

This exhibition was organized by the International Center of Photography with lead support from the ICP Exhibitions Committee and Studley. Additional support was provided, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

