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media release



Zoe Strauss, *Daddy Tattoo*, Philadelphia, 2004. International Center of Photography, Purchase, with funds from the ICP Acquisitions Committee, 2013.

Zoe Strauss: 10 Years

On view from
October 4, 2013
through
January 19, 2014

Media Preview
October 3, 2013
11:30am-1:30pm

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Photographer Zoe Strauss will be the focus of a mid-career retrospective at the International Center of Photography from October 4, 2013 to January 19, 2014. Including more than 100 color images, *Zoe Strauss: 10 Years* is an unflinching view into the economic, social, and personal complexities of life in Strauss' own Philadelphia neighborhood and other areas of the United States. In Strauss' words, it is "an epic narrative about the beauty and struggle of everyday life."

Inspired by American documentary photographers such as Walker Evans, William Eggleston, and Nan Goldin, Strauss' work focuses on the fascinating and often disconcerting realities of everyday life. The majority of her work—portraits, urban landscapes, and documentation of signage—were taken in and around Philadelphia. Strauss has also traveled widely throughout the U.S., including Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi, where she photographed the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Between 2001 and 2010, Strauss displayed her photographs once a year in an unused public space beneath the I-95 highway overpass in South Philadelphia. In these annual one-day exhibitions, she mounted her photographs to the concrete bridge supports and viewers could buy photocopies of the prints for five dollars. *Zoe Strauss: 10 Years* is a critical assessment of this decade-long project.

"There is incredible humanity and generosity in Zoe's photographs," said ICP Curator Kristen Lubben. "And while the individual images are striking, it is the totality of the 'epic narrative' that makes the project so moving. Rather than a static body of work, Zoe conceives it as a dynamic social intervention, animating public spaces and engaging directly with communities."

(more)

The exhibition was organized by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where it was first shown in 2012. It is accompanied by a catalogue with essays by Strauss, organizing curator Peter Barberie, and photo historian Sally Stein.

About Zoe Strauss

Born in Philadelphia in 1970, Zoe Strauss began making photographs in 2000. Although never formally trained as a photographer, she founded the Philadelphia Public Art Project in 1995 with the objective of exhibiting art in nontraditional venues. Subsequently, she turned to the camera as the most direct instrument to represent her chosen subjects.

In recent years, Strauss has participated in the 2006 Whitney Biennial, and has had solo exhibitions at the ICA Philadelphia, in 2006, and the Bruce Silverstein Gallery, in 2007 and 2009. She has participated in group shows or projects at the Centraal Museum in Utrecht (2006), PPOW Gallery (2008), and the Art Institute of Chicago (2009), among others. She was a 2005 Pew Fellow and a 2007 United States Artists Gund Fellow in the Visual Arts. In 2008, she published her first book, *America*, which received an *Artforum* "Best of 2008" award. In 2012, she was nominated for membership to Magnum Photos. Strauss is working on *Homesteading*, a major new body of work commissioned for the 2013 Carnegie International. The project explores the legacy of industry in the town of Homestead, Pennsylvania, site of the former Homestead Works and the 1892 Homestead Strike, one of the most important labor disputes in American history. More information can be found at <http://homesteadpa.tumblr.com>.

Zoe Strauss: 10 Years was organized by the Philadelphia Museum of Art with support from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through the Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative. The ICP presentation is supported by the ICP Exhibitions Committee.

Support for public programs in association with *Zoe Strauss: 10 Years* is generously provided by Documentary Arts, Inc. and Art Happens.

Public Program

In conjunction with the exhibition, ICP will present Zoe Strauss in conversation with Kristen Lubben on Wednesday, November 13, at 7:00 pm. The event will take place at the School at ICP (Shooting Studio, 1114 Avenue of the Americas at 43rd Street).

Also On View

JFK November 22, 1963: A Bystander's View of History

October 4, 2013–January 19, 2014

When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, the event and its aftermath were broadcast to a stunned nation through photography and television. The exhibition examines the imaginative reception of these iconic photographs and includes stills from Abraham Zapruder's famous footage of the assassination, as well as news photographs, snapshots by bystanders, souvenirs, and scrapbooks. Organized by ICP Chief Curator Brian Wallis on the fiftieth anniversary of the tragedy, these visual artifacts demonstrate the active role of photography in negotiating trauma and facilitating mourning.

(more)

Lewis Hine

October 4, 2013—January 19, 2014

Lewis Hine (1874–1940) is widely recognized as an American original whose work has been cited as a precursor to modernist and documentary photography. While certain of Hine’s photographic projects—such as on immigration, child labor, New York City, and the building of the Empire State Building—are well known, few exhibitions have considered his entire life’s work.

The aim of *Lewis Hine* is to provide a broad overview of his photographic career, using supplementary material to situate the photographs in the context of their original consumption while providing a platform for reconsidering the work today—both historically and artistically. The exhibition includes Hine’s earliest work from Ellis Island (1905) and extensive selections from every major project that followed, including “Hull House,” “American Red Cross in Europe,” and “Men at Work.” The exhibition is curated by Alison Nordström, Curator of Photographs at George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, which holds the largest and most comprehensive archive of Hine’s work.

The Future of America: Lewis Hine’s New Deal Photographs

October 4, 2013—January 19, 2014

Among the least known but most prescient photographs taken by social documentary photographer Lewis Hine were those he made as chief photographer for the National Research Project (NRP), a division of the federal government’s Works Progress Administration (WPA) founded in late 1935. The goal of the NRP was to investigate recent changes in industrial technologies and to assess their effects on future employment. In more than 700 photographs, taken in industrial towns throughout the Northeast in 1936 and 1937, Hine revealed not only working conditions in aging industrial factories, but also in new industries and productive workplaces. The NRP published hundreds of reports illustrated with Hine’s photographs on a broad variety of agricultural, manufacturing, and mining activities. His works captured the look of labor and industry in transition, while the entire NRP story provides provocative parallels to today’s economic challenges. *The Future of America: Lewis Hine’s New Deal Photographs*, organized by Hine scholar Judith Mara Gutman, draws on ICP’s archive of more than 300 of Hine’s prints from the NRP series and the master holdings at the National Archives.

THE PICTURE WINDOWS SERIES: Gideon Mendel’s Drowning World

EXTENDED through the fall

A large-scale installation of Gideon Mendel’s *Drowning World* series occupies the museum’s 43rd Street windows.

About ICP

The International Center of Photography (ICP) is the world’s leading institution dedicated to the practice and understanding of photography and the reproduced image in all its forms. Through our exhibitions, educational programs, and community outreach, we offer an open forum for dialogue about the role images play in our culture. Since our founding, we have presented more than 500 exhibitions and offered thousands of classes, providing instruction at every level. ICP is a center where photographers and artists, students and scholars can create and interpret the world of the image within our comprehensive educational and archival facilities. Visit www.icp.org for more information.

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