FAMILY GUIDE

Zoe Strauss: 10 Years

Lewis Hine

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

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

These exhibitions on view October 4, 2013 – January 19, 2014

LOOK AROUND.
First you will enter the exhibition, Zoe Strauss: Ten Years. Strauss is a Philadelphia-based photographer best known for her images of the overlooked aspects of life.

CONTINUE downstairs and you’ll see the photographs of Lewis Hine, who is also known for documenting communities full of “beauty and struggle”—though his photographs were taken almost 100 years before Strauss’s. ASK each other: How do you think a photograph made 100 years ago on the same street corner in South Philadelphia might have looked?

EXPLORE the rest of the exhibition with these characteristics in mind and see what you find.

FIND the photograph South Philly (Mattress Flip Front) (2001).

Strauss has said that she wants to create a “narrative that reflects the beauty and struggle of everyday life.” LOOK BACK at the image with this quote in mind. Where do you see the “beauty”? Where do you see the “struggle”?

LOOK AROUND. These photographs were all made by Lewis Hine. He is well-known for using photographs to promote social change around the United States.

Early in his career, Hine made photographs of immigrants coming into the United States through Ellis Island. Imagine what you would smell, hear, taste, or see if this image came to life, and also if the frame expanded to show you all of Ellis Island at the time.

FIND the exhibition Lewis Hine in the downstairs galleries.

FIND the section devoted to his photographs of immigrants coming into Ellis Island, and the photograph Italian Madonna (1905).

Imagine coming into the United States for the first time after a long and difficult 40-day journey on a steamship. Imagine you were only allowed to bring a couple of suitcases to start your new life. You do not speak the language or know anyone.

What would you be thinking as Lewis Hine made a photograph of you?

Fill in the thought bubbles above their heads. You can fill them in with words or pictures representing their thoughts.

What would you pack in a suitcase if you were moving far away? What are the most important objects to you? Make a list here and share as a family:

“IF I could tell the story in words, I wouldn’t have to lug a camera.” —Lewis Hine


“FIND” the photograph, Italian Family Looking for Lost Baggage (1905).

What do you notice about the people in the photograph? What can you imagine about their lives?

Talk with your family about whether any of your family members came to the United States from other countries. When did they come? Where did they come from? How did they get here?

This is a photograph of newsboys, young children who worked hard at selling newspapers and earned very little. Lewis Hine photographed many young children working under illegal, difficult, and even dangerous conditions.

"I wanted to show the thing that had to be corrected; I wanted to show the things that had to be appreciated." — Lewis Hine