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DOCUMENT

Laura Letinsky
September 9 – November 4, 2017
Polaroids

DOCUMENT is pleased to inaugurate Gallery Two, a dedicated exhibition space for special projects with *Polaroids* an exhibition of works by Laura Letinsky. The exhibition coincides with the release of *Time's Assignation*, a book devoted to the artist's Polaroid works, realized between 1997 and 2008.

Laura Letinsky's work transports us in time. Working with Polaroid Type 55, the renowned instant development process yielding a unique image, Letinsky photographs fruits, flowers, food, utensils, and other fragments of everyday life. These interior spaces are a testament to their passing inhabitants, but only the ordinary, worn, used objects remain. Looking more closely, we notice the meticulous composition. The space that defines these domestic objects indicates that these pictures were not taken in a hurry but rather composed with care. Those who know Letinsky's work will recognize in these her still lifes, a genre in which she has excelled since the 1990s. Like the objects depicted, these Polaroids too have undergone alterations. We see smears, flecks, and other marks atop the image that disrupt the photographed scene.

In *Time's Assignation*, the impurities are as much a part of the image as is its subject. Letinsky is wont to work with a 4x5" camera, and like many photographers before the digital age, she used the Polaroid to make tests. This practical use was a technical aide, a way of obtaining a black-and-white preview that would subsequently be taken with the same camera for her color negatives of the same scene. Similar to a sketch, the Polaroid allowed Letinsky to explore the focus, time of exposure, and light, as well as overall composition. To reveal them to us today is a surprise; with these little images, we enter into the process of creation, the artist's notebook.

– Nathalie Herschdorfer

Laura Letinsky holds a BFA from the University of Manitoba (1986)and an MFA from Yale University's School of Art (1991). She is a Professor in the Department of Visual Art at the University of Chicago. Notable exhibitions include the Mumbai Photography Festival, Mumbai, India; MIT, Cambridge, MA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; The Photographers Gallery, London; The Denver Art Museum, CO; Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and The Renaissance Society, Chicago. She is represented by Yancey Richardson Gallery, NYC. Awards include the Canada Council International Residency, Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, The Anonymous Was a Woman Award, and the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. Publications include Ill Form and Void Full, Radius Press, 2014, Feast, Smart Museum of Art, UC Press, 2013, After All, Damiani, 2010, Hardly More Than Ever, Renaissance Society, 2004, Blink, Phaidon Press, 2002, and Venus Inferred, University of Chicago Press, 2000.

All works:
Untitled, 1997–2008
Polaroid
$ 3,000 each

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