



By the Book: New Photography Publications

**Keliy Anderson-Staley, Jesse Burke, Stephania Bursese,
David Hartt, Justine Kurland, Andrea Modica, Nadia Sablin
and Will Steacy**

February 5 - April 23, 2016

By the Book: Recent Photography Publications

Motivated by a booming interest in photo books, *By the Book* examines the photographers' varied interests in compiling images into books, as well as the relationship between photographic prints as art objects and replicated images on the page. The eight exceptional artists included are some of the most celebrated in the field of contemporary photography. Together they are tackling issues of identity, environmentalism, the modern economy, family, and of course, the photographic process. Each of their books is a beautifully-crafted publication and the images on view are as compelling as they are varied.

Keliy Anderson-Staley (Houston, TX) makes portraits using wet-plate processes. *On a Wet Bough* (Waltz Books, 2014) is a stunning monograph of tintype portraits culled from an archive of hundreds she has taken over the last decade, including works that were shot at The Print Center in 2011. The creation of these tintype portraits requires extended exposure times and stillness from the sitter, resulting in images full of intense and open expressions.

Jesse Burke (Rumford, RI) documented a series of road trips he took over 5 years with his daughter Clover to explore the natural world. These images are brought together in his monograph, *Wild & Precious* (Daylight Books, 2015). Together this father-and-daughter team studied beaches, land, sky and animals. Bookended by poetic letters the two wrote to one another, *Wild & Precious* is a modern-day love story between parent and child, natural world and society.

Stephanie Bursese (Philadelphia, PA) presents her photographs in installations that use architectural intrusions to experiment with how the body moves through space. The selection in this exhibition draw from her self-published *Belt and Brace* (2015), which features photographs of building materials, walls and other structural modifications to suggest the connection between physical and psychological worlds.



Keliy Anderson-Staley, *Victoria*, 2011, from *On a Wet Bough*

David Hartt (Philadelphia, PA) created a series of images shot inside the office spaces of Johnson Publishing Company, the iconic Chicago-based publisher of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines, located in a modernist building designed by John Moutoussamy. *Stray Light* (Columbia College Chicago Press, 2014) is the catalog for the same-titled exhibition, which originated at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL (2011) and traveled to The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY; the Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA; and the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA.

Justine Kurland (New York, NY) made a series of photographs in response to poems written by the poet and art critic John Yau. Kurland and Yau exchanged new photographs and poems via email, reacting and responding to each other's work. This collaboration led to *Black Threads from Meng Chiao* (TIS Books, 2015), which combines Kurland's black-and-white photographs with Yau's three-part poem.

Andrea Modica (Philadelphia, PA) has created numerous ambitious bodies of work which have been collected in several monographs. Her newest, *As We Wait* (Grafiche dell'Artiere, 2015) includes previously unpublished photographs from several recent projects. *As We Wait* was edited and sequenced by the celebrated photographer Larry Fink, who also wrote an illuminating introduction.

Nadia Sablin (New York, NY) photographed her two aunts, who live in a small village in northwest Russia, over seven summers. In *Aunties* (Duke University Press, 2015), which was selected for the Center for Documentary Studies/Honickman First Book Prize, we view Sablin's aunts, now in their seventies, living as they always lived - chopping wood to heat the house, bringing water from a well, planting potatoes and making their own clothes.

Will Steacy (New York, NY) comes from five generations of newspaper men and worked as a union laborer before becoming a photographer. *Deadline* (b. frank books, 2015) is the culmination of the five years Steacy spent documenting the newsroom and printing plant of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.



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