

# THE PRINT CENTER

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## EXHIBITIONS AT THE PRINT CENTER

*Daily Life: Photography from Lithuania*

and

*Rebecca Gilbert: wonder*

December 16, 2016 — April 22, 2017

Opening Reception: Thursday, December 15, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Gallery Talk with Artists and Curator: Thursday, December 15, 5:30pm



Arturas Valiauga, *I dropped in on Stepas, we talked about life*, 2002

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** - (December 8, 2016) The Print Center presents two exhibitions: *Daily Life: Photography from Lithuania*, a group exhibition that brings together the work of twelve renowned Lithuanian photographers who observe and capture the daily routines of life, and *Rebecca Gilbert: wonder* an exhibition of a new, ambitious series of highly rendered work by the Philadelphia-based artist. The Print Center is pleased to showcase the outstanding work of an artist from our region in concert with work by exceptional international artists.

*Daily Life: Photography from Lithuania* has been organized by the **Lithuanian Photographers' Association (LPA)** as part of an ongoing partnership between the cultural community of Lithuania and The Print Center. The exhibition was selected by artist and Chairman of the LPA

**Gintaras Česonis**, who will be in Philadelphia to open the exhibition on December 15, 2016. The show provides an overview of some of the most significant photographic works created in Lithuania during the

past fifty years. Each of the twelve artists presented uses the camera to observe and capture the routines of everyday life, which are both stable and simultaneously subject to constant change, replacement and erasure. The exhibition features artists from two generations, one worked under the repression and censorship of Soviet occupation and another since independence in 1990. In these images, we see their commonplace existence, which often borders on the absurd, complete with the grime and pain accumulated in the corners of history and of individual lives.

*“Daily routine is where we are, and as everything that is the closest,  
it becomes virtually invisible.”*

- Milda Kiaušaitė

*From Daily Life, Lithuanian Photography 1963–2013, (Kiaušaitė, 2016)*

The older generation, active in the 1960s and 70s, is comprised of a group of artists considered the masters of Lithuanian photography including **Romualdas Augūnas**, **Aleksandras Macijauskas**, **Antanas Miežanskas**, **Romualdas Požerskis**, **Romualdas Rakauskas** and **Antanas Sutkus**. These photographers did not work to provoke social conflict, but rather publicized and highlighted the universal problems of being during the Soviet era. Other photographers from that time, such as **Vitas Luckus** and **Algirdas Šeškus**, subscribed to avant-garde style, communicating in a different visual language.

The more recent generation of photographers, which has emerged since 2000, includes **Gintaras Česonis**, **Mindaugas Kavaliauskas**, **Donatas Stankevičius** and **Arturas Valiauga**, speak to us in the language of today. Their work is characterized by an analysis of varied surroundings, groups of people and phenomena. They schematize and inventory experiences and life events, often with an almost clinical quality. Their photography is not impulsive; instead it is calculated and carefully plotted.

All the works in the show were printed in Philadelphia by Jeffrey Stockbridge of Stockbridge Fine Art Printing.

### **Artists in the Exhibition**

Romualdas Augūnas, Gintaras Česonis, Mindaugas Kavaliauskas, Vitas Luckus, Aleksandras Macijauskas, Antanas Miežanskas, Romualdas Požerskis, Romualdas Rakauskas, Algirdas Šeškus, Donatas Stankevičius, Antanas Sutkus and Artūras Valiauga.

### **About the Lithuanian Photographers' Association**

Established in 1933, the Lithuanian Photographers' Association is the central organization for photography in Lithuania. Originally established as an amateur photographers' association, early activities were suspended at the onset of Soviet occupation following World War II. In 1969, after a hard fought struggle with the Soviet bureaucracy, the organization was established as the *Association of Lithuanian Art Photographers*. It was the only such organization in the Soviet Union, and initially it functioned as a union. Membership provided exclusive access to professional work. The first Chairman of the new incarnation was the renowned photographer Antanas Sutkus, and its activities united artists like Sutkus, Algimantas Kunčius, Vitas Luckus, Aleksandras Macijauskas, Romualdas Rakauskas and Liudvikas Ruikas, who represented the classical Lithuanian School of Photography, with a younger generation.

Today the influential and robust nonprofit arranges exhibitions, publishes books and provides educational activities. The organization runs gallery spaces in three cities and remains the only organization in Lithuania dedicated solely to photography.

Along with the exhibition, The Print Center will have a collection of exceptional photo books from Lithuania available for viewing.

This exhibition is the most recent activity resulting from The Print Center's partnership with Lithuania. Earlier this fall, an exhibition created by The Print Center, **Streets of Philadelphia: 1970-1985**, traveled to the Prospekto Gallery, the Lithuanian Photographers' Association's gallery in Vilnius. Executive Director Elizabeth Spungen said, "The relationship we have forged with our colleagues in Lithuania has been rich and rewarding. We look forward to continuing the relationship and the sharing of the heritage of both cities and nations."

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Rebecca Gilbert, *Confluence*, 2016

## ***Rebecca Gilbert: wonder***

***Rebecca Gilbert: wonder*** brings together new prints by the Philadelphia-based artist. Gilbert's works come out of her interest in both traditional print processes and her poetic response to the landscape.

This new body of work grows out of an artist residency Gilbert had in 2015 at OCHO, Questa, NM. During the residency she explored the countryside around Questa guided by a treasure map created in the form of a poem. It was created by a retired art collector living in Santa Fe named Forrest Fenn, who has hidden more than one million dollars in gold somewhere in the rugged nearby countryside. Gilbert's hunt for Fenn's treasure became an opportunity to take notes and make sketches of the beautiful landscape with its interesting rock formations and hidden petroglyphs, as well as of objects she found during her hikes. Those sketches were the starting point for the engravings and woodcuts in this exhibition. While Gilbert's treasure hunting activities are recent, her work has focused on gold in the past.

***"I have been using dirt, water, sticks, coins and gold as imagery in my work to symbolize that which we impulsively crave, seek out and hold valuable."***  
**- Rebecca Gilbert**

The works in this exhibition illustrate Gilbert's deep commitment to traditional print processes, including wood engraving and complex, multiple-layered reduction woodcuts. The artist's intense attention to craft

and process reflects her interest in the technique, workmanship and perfection found in the work of masters such as Albrecht Dürer.

*“I teach ... printmaking classes about process and maintaining a studio practice and exploring the creative process, and the conversation always comes up that you shouldn’t strive for perfection, that it will hold you back. I know that is probably true, but I feel compelled to strive for perfection.”* - Rebecca Gilbert

The small wood engravings in this exhibition are realistic, monochromatic, depictions of symbolically important objects Gilbert found during her time in New Mexico. These are paired with larger reduction woodcuts that approach the Southwestern landscape much more symbolically, becoming almost psychedelic.

### **About the Artist**

**Rebecca Gilbert** received her BFA in Printmaking from Marshall University, Huntington, WV and her MFA in Printmaking/Book Arts from The University of the Arts, Philadelphia. She also studied nontoxic etching at the Grafisk Eksperimentarium, Capileira, Spain. For several years she was a member of Nexus Foundation for Today’s Art, Philadelphia, where she presented three solo exhibitions and curated several group exhibitions. Gilbert’s work is in numerous public collections, including the Free Library of Philadelphia Print and Picture Collection; Princeton University Graphic Arts Library; and Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw, GA. Her work has been included in recent exhibitions at Birke Art Gallery, Marshall University, Huntington, WV; Crane Arts, Philadelphia, PA; The Center for Emerging Visual Artists, Philadelphia, PA; and Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery, The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA. Gilbert is represented by The Print Center Gallery Store. In 2014, The Print Center exhibited Gilbert’s work at the Editions Artists’ Book Fair, New York, NY.

### **Sponsors**

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### **Funders**

Program support is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

Additional support for The Print Center is offered by the Edna W. Andrade Fund; Art in Print; Artist & Craftsman; Brilliant Graphics; Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation; Flaster Greenberg PC; Forman Family Fund; Fund for Children; The Allen Hilles Fund; KSK Architects Planners Historians, Inc.; James A. Michener Art Museum; National Endowment for the Arts; Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage; Philadelphia Cultural Fund; The Photo Review; Renaissance Graphic Arts, Inc.; Rosenlund Family Foundation; Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP; Sheila Fortune Foundation; Silicon - Fine Art Prints; Stockbridge Fine Art; Stockton Rush Bartol Foundation; Union Benevolent Association; University of Pennsylvania Office of Government and Community Affairs; University of the Arts; William Penn Foundation; Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial and contributions from our Board of Governors, Luminaries, members and friends.

### **The Print Center Programs**

Please visit The Print Center's website, [www.printcenter.org](http://www.printcenter.org), for more information on exhibitions and programs.

### **About The Print Center**

For more than a century, The Print Center has encouraged the growth and understanding of photography and printmaking as vital contemporary arts through exhibitions, publications and educational programs. The Print Center has an international voice and a strong sense of local purpose. Free and open to the public, it presents changing exhibitions which highlight established and emerging, local, national and international contemporary artists. It mounts one of the oldest art competitions in the country, now in its 91st year and the Gallery Store offers the largest selection of contemporary prints and photographs available for sale in Philadelphia.

### **General Information**

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#ThePrintCenter; #InternationalPhotography; #RebeccaGilbert

Free and open to the Public  
Tuesday through Saturday 11:00am - 6:00pm

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