

Galleries: At Moore, do as I say

by Edith Newhall

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"November 13, 2010 (Rosy's Jazz Hall)," a photograph by Bill McCullough, is at the Print Center.

Photographers at work

Most artists know the pain of holding down a job - the one that pays the rent, puts dinner on the table, and vastly reduces the amount of art produced - but some observant creative types have discovered the art in their jobs, as have the six photographers whose work makes up the Print Center show "Day Job."

Steven Ahlgren, who worked in finance before becoming a full-time photographer, captures the drabness and sameness of his former occupation in candid color photographs of offices in New Haven, New York City, Leesburg, Va., and Media (where he lives). The rare employee he captures looks like a trapped automaton.

Hired by a real estate company to shoot pictures of houses likely to go into foreclosure, the Philadelphia photographer Justin Audet found himself traveling to unfamiliar neighborhoods. While there, he saw an opportunity to create a new body of work of his own, straightforward images of broken-down houses that speak viscerally of poverty.

Larry Fink, well-known for his pictures of parties - not least his Oscar work for Vanity Fair - used that particular acumen in a recent commercial assignment for Banco Sabadell, emphasizing the seriousness of the bank's mission in dramatic, black-and-white, angular compositions of unsmiling CEOs.

Like Ahlgren, Chelsea Griffith looks back, in her case to her family's funeral home and her experience working there as a young person. Her images of the everyday in funeral homes are as still as death itself, as they should be.

A photographer, but also a professor of computer and information science at the University of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Pierce made ENIAC, the first electronic general-purpose computer, the subject of photographs in 2004. (Penn was deeply involved in ENIAC's creation.) His black-and-white images suggest prenatal photos of fetuses and underwater scenes from the 1954 film *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

Last but not least are the party photos of Bill McCullough, an Austin, Texas, artist known as a wedding photographer who has simultaneously juggled an artistic practice derived from that work. The candid behind-the-scenes pictures from his series "Technicolor Life" capture all the amusing and dull moments that never make it into the wedding albums.

Print Center, 1614 Latimer St., 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. 215-735-6090 or www.printcenter.org. Through Nov. 22.

"Galleries" by Edith Newhall and "Art" by Thomas Hine appear in alternating weeks.