by Edith Newhall, Contributing Art Writer
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Despair behind the Curtain

I mistakenly assumed the Print Center's "Daily Life: Photography from Lithuania" would comprise contemporary photographs from that country. Walking through the show without studying the wall captions for each work, I thought Lithuania must be in some sort of dire time warp. Almost every image looked like it dated from the 1960s or '70s. A second, slower perusal proved me right. Almost all of this show's photographs date from those decades.

What's even more surprising in this show, perhaps, is the poverty and sense of political despair that American photographers and their Eastern European counterparts dwelled on in those years. It is still vividly present in photojournalism but seems quite gone from contemporary fine-art photography.

Through April 22 at the Print Center, 1614 Latimer St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Information: 215-735-6090 or www.printcenter.org. Through April 22.