What is the social power of photography today?
IN REAL LIFE
JANUARY 16-MARCH 22, 2020

MoCP Museum of Contemporary Photography
Columbia College Chicago
Google Search (Covid-19) May 5th, 2020
Opinion

Where Are the Photos of People Dying of Covid?

In times of crisis, stark images of sacrifice or consequence have often moved masses to act.
Collection Survey
Lange, Dorthea (American, b. 1895, d. 1965). *Thirteen Million Unemployed Fill the Cities in the Early Thirties*. 1934
Lange, Dorthea. (American, b. 1895, d. 1965), Farm Security Administration (FSA) camp for migratory agricultural workers. Meeting of the camp council. Farmersville, California. 1939
Lyon, Danny ((American, b. 1942). *Many in the movement believe an organized effort is underway to depopulate black areas of the South.* 1963; printed 2010
“The world seldom believes the horror stories of history until they are documented.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Cowherd, Darryl (American, b. 1940). *Stop White Police from Killing Us - St. Louis, MO. 1967*
Jaar, Alfredo (American, b. 1956 Chile). *Caritas, Real Pictures*. 1995
Muholi, Zanele (South African, b. 1972). Nhlanha, Esther, Mofokeng, Thokoza, Johannesburg. 2010
Iman, Omar (Syrian, b.1979). *Untitled (Scarecrow) from the "Live, Love, Refugee" series.* 2015
Iman, Omar (Syrian, b.1979). *Untitled (I'm Afraid of the Blank) from the "Live, Love, Refugee" series*. 2015
Iman, Omar (Syrian, b.1979). *Untitled (There was only grass)* from the "Live, Love, Refugee" series. 2015
Harrison, Kathryn. *Untitled, Sarasota, Florida, from the “Blue-Stained Walls” series.* 2017
Further Reading
Locating the Potential of Socially Engaged Photography, Broadsheet by Eliza Gregory
Locating the Potential of Socially Engaged Photography
by ELIZA GREGORY

Locating the potential of socially engaged photography is a challenge to evaluate, appreciate and criticize these elements as part of the work itself, not as auxiliary to the work.

We organized this panel and this paper because it feels urgent that we as a photographic community develop language and intellectual conventions that support this kind of work—through funding it and through absorbing it or looking at it or experiencing it—can invest in the lengthy research and development process of a project and the non-visible components of it.

How do you articulate your expanded photography?

Locating the Potential of Socially Engaged Photography, Broadsheet by Eliza Gregory
Next Week: Recent Acquisitions
Wednesday, May 13th at 12pm CST

With Madeline Heuer, Collections Assistant
This Week: Behind The Lens with Priya Kambli
Friday, May 8th at 12pm CST
Priya Kambli, Soha (Muma’s Photographs), 2019
Social Documentary

- Social documentary has its origins at the end of the 19th century
- Henry Mayhew, Jacob Riis, and Lewis Hine
- Camera as an instrument of accusation against social injustice
- Draw public attention to ongoing social issues
Social Engaged Photography

- Simplicity of Collaboration - Complexity of Collaboration
- Short Duration - Long Duration
- Few Collaborators - Many Collaborators
- Few Points of Exchange - Many Points of Exchange
Photography as Social Practice

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