

Press Kit 2016/17

COLLECTED

May 2, 2016–January 31, 2017
Pier 24 Photography

Exhibition Dates

May 2, 2016–
January 31, 2017

Location

Pier 24 Photography
Pier 24, The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94105

Hours

Monday–Friday
9am–5:15pm

Contact

415-512-7424
info@pier24.org
www.pier24.org

Press Inquiries

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C O L L E C T E D



Hiroshi Sugimoto, *The Last Supper: Acts of God*, 1999/2012

Photography has been a central artistic practice in the San Francisco Bay Area for more than 150 years. Countless photographers—from Eadweard Muybridge and Carleton Watkins in the nineteenth century to contemporary practitioners such as Katy Grannan, Richard Misrach, and Henry Wessel—have been drawn to this region and made it their home. Ambitious and innovative, many early California photographers were responsible for cultivating groundbreaking educational programs—a legacy that began with the founding of the nation’s first fine art photography department, led by Ansel Adams at the California School of Fine Arts (now San Francisco Art Institute), and continues today with a number of nationally recognized photography programs at local art schools. Other civic-minded institutions like the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art have also spurred the growth and development of the medium through important exhibitions and helped to establish our understanding of photography’s place within art history. This strong history and tradition of support have undoubtedly contributed to the growth of the committed community of photography collectors residing in the Bay Area today.

Collected—the eighth exhibition at Pier 24 Photography—brings together photographs from the Pilara Foundation and other Bay Area collections. Nine collectors were invited to select works from their holdings that reflect their interests in the medium. The exhibition thus offers a lens on various collecting approaches, with some guest curators focusing on the work of particular artists or on specific art historical movements or themes, and others developing their own criteria, whether deliberately or unconsciously. Spanning the last hundred years of the medium, the selections on view here reflect each collector’s strong understanding of photography while also highlighting the singular sensibilities guiding the deeply personal act of collecting. Yet for all their variety, the assembled photographs also reveal the shared traits that unite all passionate collectors: curiosity, discipline, stamina, and persistence, paired with rigorous study and close looking.

Collected features ten San Francisco Bay Area collectors, including the Pilara Foundation. Below are brief descriptions of each collection and exhibited works.



Bluff Collection

The Bluff Collection focuses on modern photography between the wars in Europe and America with particular strength in Dada as well as postwar American photography. It also includes the most significant concentration of Robert Frank's work in private hands. The selection of Frank's photographs on view in this exhibition speaks to the artist's masterful use of sequencing to suggest narrative.

Robert Frank, *New York City, 7 Bleeker Street, 1993*



Carla Emil

For many years Carla Emil and her husband, Rich Silverstein, focused their collecting on photography and photography-based work, often favoring pictures that express a psychological perspective. Their collection has since expanded to include painting, sculpture and drawing from primarily the mid-twentieth century to the present. Carla recently realized that she has unconsciously selected many photographs that portray what she has come to think of as "solitude." Her gallery at Pier 24 includes a group of such pictures.

Garry Winogrand, *New York, 1950*



Randi & Bob Fisher

The collection of Randi and Bob Fisher looks at the development of American photography over the last century and includes in-depth surveys of many artists that have shaped our understanding of the medium. In the spirit of this comprehensive approach, the Fishers present the complete portfolio *Los Alamos* by William Eggleston. These works epitomize the quotidian subject matter and idiosyncratic approach that defined Eggleston's practice and cemented his reputation as a primary figure in the history of photography.

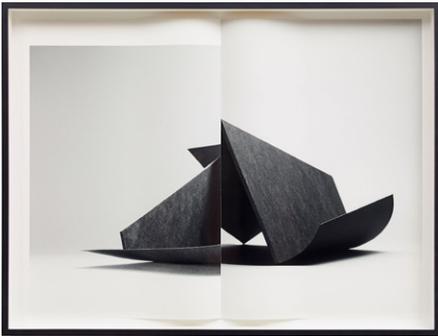
William Eggleston, *Untitled, from Los Alamos portfolio, 1965-74*



Dan Holland & Patrick Printy

Dan Holland and Patrick Printy's collection spans a variety of disciplines and styles, with a particular emphasis on black-and-white photography from the mid-twentieth century. A centerpiece of the collection is the work of Ralph Eugene Meatyard, an artist whose images of family and friends are rich with emotion, mystery, and wonder. Meatyard's work captures a common theme throughout the collection, examining the space where questions are posed, answers considered, and identities formed as we grow up and find our place in the world.

Ralph Eugene Meatyard, *Untitled*, 1968



Kaitlyn & Mike Krieger

Kaitlyn and Mike Krieger's contemporary art collection focuses on conceptual and process-oriented works. They are particularly interested in artists and artworks that resist traditional categories and boundaries between mediums. The works in their collection demonstrate that photography can be sculptural, painterly, or even created without a camera.

Erin Shirreff, *A.P (no. 16)*, 2014



Pilara Foundation

Mary and Andrew Pilara founded the Pilara Foundation Collection, which focuses on portraiture, historic San Francisco, and documentary photography. Exhibited here are works by Richard Learoyd and Hiroshi Sugimoto—photographers the Foundation has collected in depth—and emerging Bay Area photographer Erica Deeman, along with images of the San Francisco waterfront by both established and unknown photographers.

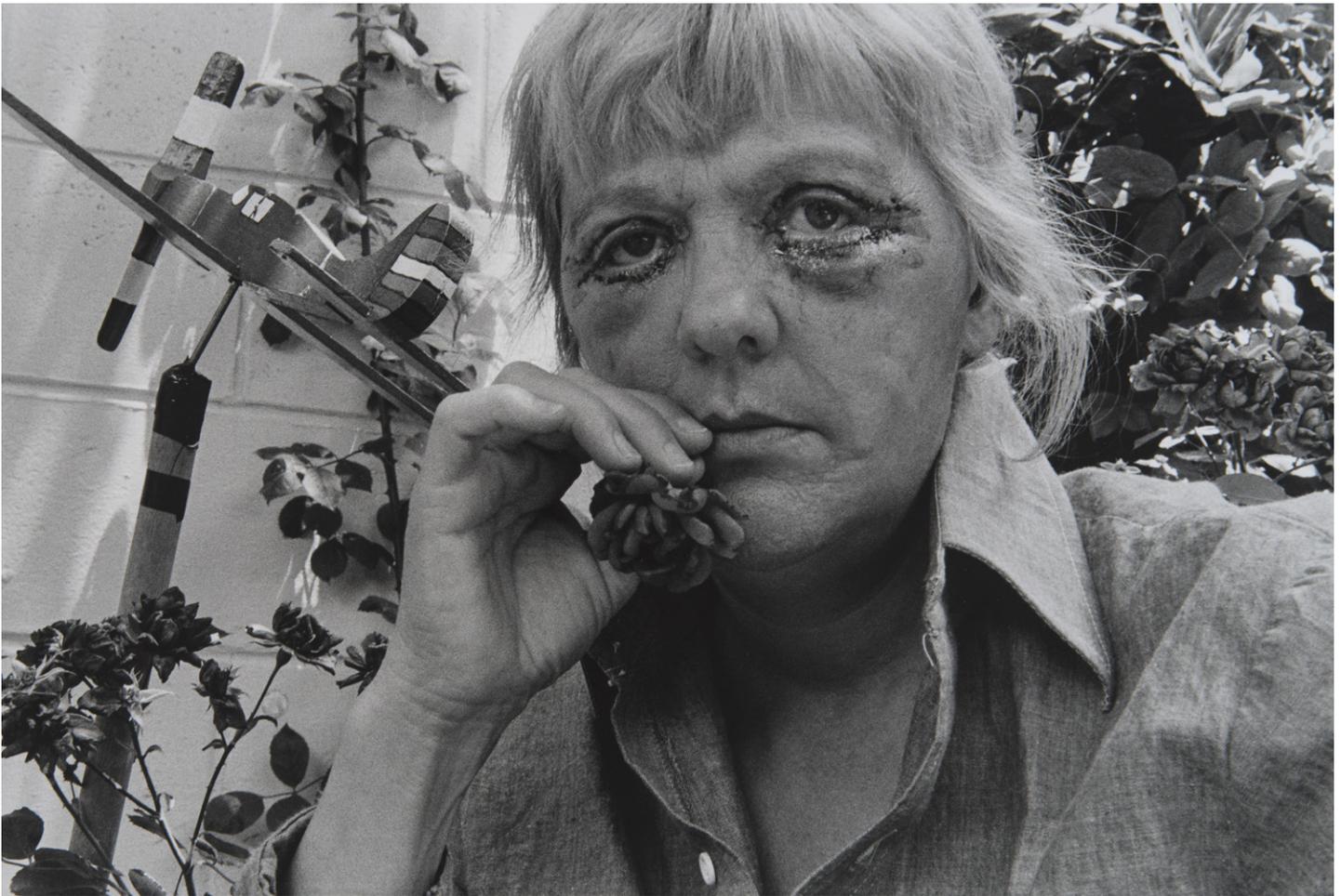
Richard Learoyd, *After Ingres*, 2011



Susie Tompkins Buell

Susie Tompkins Buell primarily collects photographs from the early-to-mid twentieth century, focusing in particular on Modernism and works by artists based in the Bay Area. Her collection also reflects an abiding interest in social justice, featuring subjects ranging from the Great Depression and the civil rights movement of the 1960s to portraits of socially minded political figures. On view at Pier 24 are four women photographers whom Buell has collected in depth and whose work epitomizes the underlying themes of her collection.

Tina Modotti, *Roses, Mexico*, 1924



Anne Noggle, *Facelift No. 3*, 1975



Winn Ellis & David Mahoney

Winn Ellis and David Mahoney collect American photography across time periods, genres, and processes, focusing on work by both acknowledged and lesser-known artists that speaks to the American experience. This selection focuses on self-portraits by female artists working in the 1970s and early 1980s. In this period an explosion of interest in the medium enabled these artists to weave together a rising feminist consciousness with a new freedom to explore processes that previously would not have been considered photography.

Judy Dater, *Self-Portrait in Car*, 1982



Installation view, Pier 24 Photography, San Francisco



Nion McEvoy

Although at first Nion McEvoy collected only photography, he has since delved into contemporary art more generally in pursuit of works that explore his favorite subjects. Growing up, his first exposure to photography came in the form of album covers; his love of images about music has stayed with him. The work exhibited here reflects his continuing fascination with both music and musicians—especially, but not exclusively, vernacular ones.

Christian Paterson, *Motown Drums*, 2006



Installation view, Pier 24 Photography, San Francisco



Chara Schreyer

Chara Schreyer collects modern and contemporary art across all mediums. Her collection focuses on artists who have changed the course of art history. The presentation she has organized for this exhibition explores the themes of danger, disaster, and beauty, speaking not only to the complexity of her collection, but also to her own history as the child of Holocaust survivors.

Richard Prince, *Untitled (Girlfriend)*, 1993

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John Baldessari, *Person with Guitar (Yellow)*, 2005

Pier 24 Photography

Located on San Francisco's Embarcadero, Pier 24 Photography provides a quiet, contemplative environment for viewing photographic works. Pier 24 houses the permanent collection of the Pilara Foundation, which is dedicated to collecting, preserving and exhibiting photography. We seek to engage the community through exhibitions, publications, and public programs, and we welcome members of the public, academic institutions, and museum groups for self-guided tours that last up to two hours. Pier 24 Photography is free and open to the public Monday through Friday by appointment.

The Pilara Foundation Collection includes over 4,000 photographs by 300 artists. The core of the Collection focuses on twentieth-century American photographers. Beyond this central concentration, works are international in scope and span from the nineteenth century to present-day.