

TURNING THE PAGE



Exhibition Dates

April 22, 2024–
January 31, 2025

Location

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

Hours

Monday–Friday
10 am–5:15 pm

Contact

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

Press Inquiries

Allie Haeusslein
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TURNING THE PAGE

As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. In its more than ten years, Pier 24 Photography has exhibited many thousands of photographs, and thus hundreds of thousands of hypothetical words. Up until now, every show has begun with the Pilara Foundation Collection and expanded from there. *Turning the Page* is the first exhibition that does not feature works from our collection. Instead, it looks at and celebrates the photobook, a medium that has undergone its own renaissance parallel to our years in operation. Each of the galleries presents works from a distinct photobook, whether an iconic volume or a recent monograph. The content, sequence, and design of each selected book guided our approach to that particular installation, aiming for a thoughtful translation of its overall tone and intent. Ultimately, *Turning the Page* invites you to consider how the viewing context impacts our understanding of a photographic project.

Among the classic works represented here are Robert Frank's *Les Américains* (The Americans, 1958), Masahisa Fukase's *Karasu* (Ravens, 1986), Larry Sultan's *Pictures from Home* (1992), and Jim Goldberg's *Raised by Wolves* (1995)—four photobooks that speak to the breadth of the medium across the second half of the twentieth century. Many consider *The Americans* so influential that every photobook since has been either in conversation with it or in rebellion against it. *Ravens* trades Frank's restless questioning of the American dream for a dark, introspective processing of grief in the aftermath of Fukase's divorce; both demonstrate how image sequencing can evoke feeling and narrative. *Pictures from Home* and *Raised by Wolves* build upon these precedents, combining image sequence, page layout, and text to tell powerful stories and reveal certain truths.

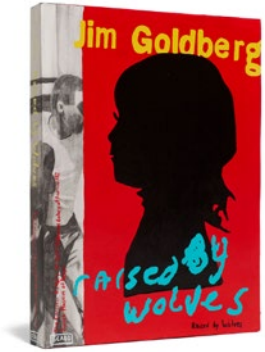
Over the past twenty years, photobooks have become increasingly essential to many photographers, offering a distinctive medium for fully realizing their visions—often pushing the boundaries of the book form along the way. This approach to design and layout extends to how several of the featured

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photographers have installed works from their projects. Few artists have explored the photobook’s range as extensively as Rinko Kawauchi, whose *Ametsuchi* (2013) unifies book design with her project’s concept and visual content; her lyrical installation echoes the sequence and design within her book’s pages. Vasantha Yoganathan’s *A Myth of Two Souls* (2016–21) is a series of seven individual yet related photobooks, one for each chapter of the Hindu epic the *Ramayana*, upon which the project is loosely based. The design of Rose Marie Cromwell’s *El Libro Supremo de la Suerte* (2018) is based on Cuban *charadas*—small photocopied pamphlets that guide people in placing bets in Havana’s underground lottery by assigning numbers to everyday objects; Cromwell’s nonlinear approach to image sequencing is also informed by this random system. And in *Wires Crossed* (2023), Ed Templeton documents two decades of his life as a professional skateboarder in a dense, frenetic sequence evoking the look and feel of the skate world he helped create. These four photographers have conceived unique installations for *Turning the Page* that speak to the kind of engaging experiences they are known for creating when translating their works from page to wall.

Pier 24 Photography has long believed in the photobook as an essential vehicle for both discovering new and exciting photographers, and looking deeply at the history of the medium. Additionally, we have contributed to the photobook community with our own publishing program. As with all of our shows, we hope you will see both familiar works that call out to you as old friends might, and unfamiliar photographers for you to encounter. It is this eye toward the future, with a humble respect for the past, that unifies the work on display. We hope you will join us as we turn the page together.

In the exhibition overview below, organized according to gallery sequence, the artist, photobook title, and publishing details for each series on view are listed with two thumbnails. On the left is a sculpture of the corresponding photobook created by Bay Area-based artist Libby Black. At right is a representative image from the series on view.



Jim Goldberg, *Dave and Cookie Jonesin'*, 1989

Jim Goldberg

Raised by Wolves

Published by Scalo, Zurich, 1995

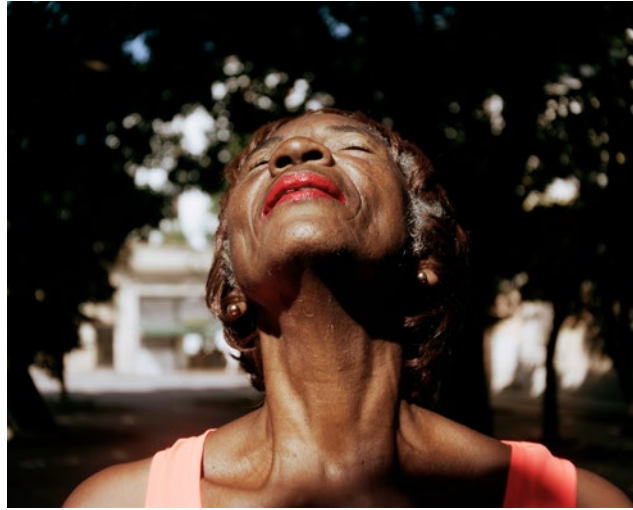


Donavon Smallwood, *Untitled #13*, from the series *Languor*, 2020

Donavon Smallwood

Languor

Published by Trespasser Books, Austin, Texas, 2021



Rose Marie Cromwell, *Martica*, 2009–16

Rose Marie Cromwell

El Libro Supremo de la Suerte (The Supreme Book of Luck)

Published by TIS Books, Brooklyn, 2018



Baldwin Lee, *Charleston, South Carolina*, 1984

Baldwin Lee

Baldwin Lee

Published by Hunters Point Press, Long Island, New York, 2022



Richard Avedon, *Charlene Van Tighem, physical therapist, Augusta, Montana, June 26, 1983, 1983*

Richard Avedon

In the American West

Published by the Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, 1985



Vasantha Yoganathan, *Disappearance*, 2013, from the book *Dandaka*, 2018

Vasantha Yoganathan

A Myth of Two Souls

Seven-volume project published by Chose Commune, Marseille, France, 2016–21

Early Times, 2016; *The Promise*, 2017 (sculpture at left); *Exile*, 2017; *Dandaka*, 2018;

Howling Winds, 2019; *Afterlife*, 2020; *Amma*, 2021



Masahisa Fukase, *Kanazawa*, 1978

Masahisa Fukase

Karasu (Ravens)

Published by Sokyū-sha, Yokohama, Japan, 1986

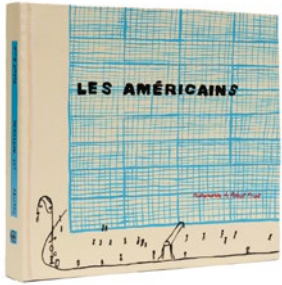


Larry Sultan, *My Mother Posing*, 1984

Larry Sultan

Pictures from Home

Published by Harry N. Abrams, New York, 1992



Robert Frank, *City Fathers*, Hoboken, New Jersey, 1955–56

Robert Frank

Les Américains (The Americans)

Published by Robert Delpire, Paris, 1958



Curran Hatleberg, *Untitled*, 2017

Curran Hatleberg

River's Dream

Published by TBW Books, Oakland, 2022



Cindy Sherman, *Untitled Film Still #58*, 1980

Cindy Sherman

Untitled Film Stills

Published by Rizzoli, New York, 1990

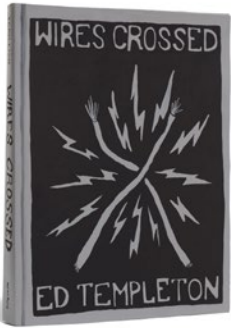


Rineke Dijkstra, *Jalta, Ukraine, July 30, 1993*, 1993

Rineke Dijkstra

Beach Portraits

Published by LaSalle Bank, Chicago, 2002



Ed Templeton, *Mike Maldonado skates a full pipe, Davenport, Iowa, 1998*

Ed Templeton

Wires Crossed

Published by Aperture, New York, 2023



Rinko Kawauchi, *Untitled*, from the series *Ametsuchi*, 2013

Rinko Kawauchi

Ametsuchi

Published by Aperture, New York, 2013



Zanele Muholi, *Sebenzile, Parktown*, 2016

Zanele Muholi

Somnyama Ngonyama

Published by Aperture, New York, 2018



Helen Levitt, *New York*, ca. 1940

Helen Levitt

A Way of Seeing

Published by Viking Press, New York, 1965

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Above: Rose Marie Cromwell, *La Charada*, from the book *El Libro Supremo de la Suerte*, 2009–16
Front cover: Alec Soth, *New Orleans, Louisiana*, 2023

Pier 24 Photography

Located on San Francisco’s Embarcadero, Pier 24 Photography provides a quiet, contemplative environment for viewing photographic works. 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.