

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Keeper of the Hearth, Virtual Opening Reception with Odette England, David Company, Kris Graves, Jess T. Dugan and Sarah Meister

On view September 10, 2020 – January 10, 2021 by appointment until further notice
Virtual Opening Reception on Thursday, September 10, 2020 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Curator and Artist remarks begin at 6:30 pm



Lori Nix and Kathleen Gerber, *Winter Garden*, 2017, Archival Pigment Print, Courtesy of the artists and ClampArt Gallery, New York

HOUSTON, TX – Words & Pictures is pleased to present a virtual opening reception of our fall exhibition, *Keeper of the Hearth: Picturing Roland Barthes' Unseen Photograph*. This program will discuss the project and its exhibition with artist and editor Odette England as well as four other project contributors, including curator, writer, and educator, David Company, artist and publisher, Kris Graves, artist Jess T. Dugan, and curator in the Department of Photography at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Sarah Meister.

Keeper of the Hearth marks the 40th anniversary of Roland Barthes' renowned work *Camera Lucida (La Chambre claire)* in 2020. Signed copies available from [Odette England](#); also available internationally with free shipping from [Schilt Publishing](#).

Space is limited, so please register to attend via zoom in advance by clicking on [the link here](#).



John Houck, *Estes*, 2018, Archival Inkjet Print

Keeper of the Hearth: Picturing Roland Barthes' Unseen Photograph, is the first exhibition of Odette England's book by the same name, which was published in the US in March 2020, marking the 40th year of Roland Barthes' renowned work, *Camera Lucida (La chambre claire)*. As part of this project, England invited more than 200 photography-based artists, writers, critics, curators, and historians from around the world to contribute an image or text that reflects on the instigator of Barthes' semiotic musings—a photograph of his mother, Henriette, aged 5, that is never seen in the book, and is perhaps one of the most famous unseen photographs in the world.

Contributors include established artists such as David Levi-Strauss, Alec Soth, and Rosalind Fox Solomon as well as emerging and mid-career artists and critics including Stanley Wolukau Wanambwa, Paul Mpagi Sepuya, and Jess T. Dugan. From a diverse array of found photographs to intimate portraits of artists' lives, this exhibition creates a multitude of platforms from which to consider the theoretical conversations about photography—not only *what* we see but *how* we see—that continue to shape our understanding of the medium today. In addition to coinciding with the 40th anniversary of *Camera Lucida*, this exhibition opens two seasons of programs celebrating the 40th anniversary of Houston Center for Photography.

The exhibition will be on view by appointment-only until further notice. Registration for appointments will open to the public on September 1st.



Grace Lau, *Time Present and Time Past are both present in Time Future (T.S.Eliot)*, 2012, Chromogenic Print from Color Negative

Odette England is an Australian/British artist who uses photography, performance, writing, and the archive to explore relationships between autobiography, gender, place, and vernacular photography. Her work has shown in more than 90 solo, two-person, and group exhibitions worldwide. England is currently Visiting Artist-in-Residence at Amherst College in Massachusetts. She is also a resident artist of the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Studio Program in New York.

David Company is a curator, writer, and Managing Director of Programs at the International Center of Photography, New York. Renowned for his engaging and rigorous writing, exhibitions and public speaking, Company has worked worldwide with institutions including MoMA New York, Tate, Whitechapel Gallery London, Centre Pompidou, Le Bal Paris, Stedelijk Museum, The Photographer's Gallery London, Paris Photo, Photo London, The National Portrait Gallery London, Aperture, Steidl, MIT Press, Thames & Hudson, MACK and Frieze.

Jess T. Dugan is an artist whose work explores issues of identity, gender, sexuality, and community through photographic portraiture. Dugan's work has been widely exhibited and is in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, the International Center of Photography, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Museum of Contemporary Photography, and many others throughout the United States.

Kris Graves is an artist and publisher based in New York and London. He has been published and exhibited globally, including the National Portrait Gallery in London, England; Aperture Gallery, New York; University of Arizona, Tucson; among others. Graves also sits on the board of Blue Sky Gallery: Oregon Center for the Photographic Arts, Portland; and The Architectural League of New York as Vice President of Photography. Graves creates artwork that deals with what he views wrong with American society and aims to use art as a means to inform people about social issues.

Sarah Meister is a curator in the Department of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art. Meister has organized a variety of exhibitions, including *Dorothea Lange: Words & Pictures* (2020), *Making Space: Women Artists and Postwar Abstraction* (2017), *From Bauhaus to Buenos Aires: Grete Stern and Horacio Coppola* (2015), and *Bill Brandt: Shadow and Light* (2013). Her current research examines narratives around twentieth century photography in Latin America and its international context.

For more information and visuals, please contact Asad Badat at asad@hcponline.org.

ABOUT HOUSTON CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Founded in 1981, Houston Center for Photography is a nonprofit organization offering year-round exhibitions, workshops, publications, outreach programs, lectures, classes, and home to an on-site library housing more than 2,500 books on photography as well as a state-of-the-art digital darkroom. HCP's mission is to increase society's understanding and appreciation of photography and its evolving role in contemporary culture. HCP strives to encourage artists, build audiences, stimulate dialogue, and promote inquiry about photography and related media through education, exhibitions, publications, fellowship programs, and community collaboration. HCP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving as a resource to its members and the community with programs that have regional and national impact.

HCP is located at 1441 West Alabama in the Museum District of Houston and is temporarily closed to the public. For more information, please visit www.hcponline.org.

HOUSTON CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY SUPPORTERS

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