

A Proposition, or the Allure of Photography

by Laura Letinsky

This event will be held on
March 26, 2021 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm



What is a photograph? Why do we photograph? Is a photograph real, illusory, both? How do we experience photography? Do we impose our meaning on the photo? Or does the photo impose on our understanding of the world?

“What’s the difference between having a picture of an apple and having a picture of a picture of an apple? If you take a picture of a picture of an apple or if you take a picture of an apple, it ends up being the same thing. It’s still a photograph and it’s always distant”
Quoted in “Pictures of Pictures: The Ambiguities of Laura Letinsky”, Lily Rothman, Time Magazine September 2012.



Laura Letinsky is a photographer, visual artist, explorer, teacher and more. Her purposeful exploration of various themes, examination of perceived ambiguities and production of exquisitely composed and critically acclaimed still life photos established her international reputation as one of the preeminent photographers and visual artists of our time.



“Instead of inviting the viewer to partake in the traditional still life, I was interested in what *remains*. What gets left over, what you can’t get rid of, or what you try to hold onto. It’s almost like once you photograph something, you can then own it and forget about it. It’s this way of assuming you have knowledge of something, even though you don’t. You see that all the time, where people go to historic sites and they take a picture and walk away without even really *looking* at anything.” (from thegreatdiscontent.com December 2017 Interview by Brandi Katherine Herrera, Photo by Lyndon French.



Profile:

A BFA from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg Canada and her MA in Photography from Yale University School of Art, Letinsky has been a Professor at the University of Chicago since 1994. She shows with Yancy Richardson Gallery, NYC and Document, Chicago and exhibits internationally including Photo Espana, Madrid, the Israel International Photography Festival, Mumbai, India. MIT, Cambridge, MA Basel Design, The Photographers Gallery, London and Denver Art Museum, CO.



Awards include the Canada Council International Residency, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, The Canada Council Project Grants, The Anonymous Was a Woman Award, and the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. Her work is published in monographs and catalogues such as To Want For Nothing, Roman Nvmerals, 2019, Time's Assignment, Radius Books, 2017, Ill Form and Void Full, Radius Books, 2014, Feast, Smart Museum of Art, UC Press, 2013, After All, Damiani, 2010, Hardly More Than Ever, Renaissance Society, 2004, Blink, Phaidon Press, 2002 and Venus Inferred, University of Chicago Press, 2000.

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