

New Pictures 4: Angela Strassheim, *Evidence* Opens Friday, March 18

Solo Exhibition Presents Photographer's Eerie Images of Past Lives



Angela Strassheim, American, born 1969, *Evidence No. 2, (BlueStar)*, 2009, Pigment print, Courtesy the artist

MINNEAPOLIS, MN, MARCH 4, 2011

The work of trained forensic photographer Angela Strassheim will be the subject of the fourth exhibition in the MIA's photography series "New Pictures," which features work from emerging artists. On display from March 18 through October 9, 2011, the exhibition will present ten works from *Evidence*, Strassheim's photographic series on domestic murder scenes. The show includes five dramatic, large-scale, black-and-white photographs that

move beyond documentary photography to reveal odd, haunting vestiges of past lives in homes now inhabited by new families. The five other works are color photographs of seemingly “normal” suburban homes where violent murders have occurred. To place the work in context, crime-scene photographs from local historical collections will supplement the exhibition.

“Angela’s works are truly innovative and contemporary in their vision of crime, and yet they draw on two historical lineages of memory and crime in this series,” said David E. Little, MIA curator of Photography and New Media. “The work evokes nineteenth-century memorial photography, in which families took pictures of deceased children and loved ones, as well as the macabre elements of crime photography employed by journalists and lawyers for news stories and trials.”

In this series, Strassheim employs techniques she learned as the forensic photographer for the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Division of Forensic Science Crime Lab in Richmond. Paired with her longstanding investigation of the dark undercurrents of suburban American life, an intimate portrait of lives lived and crimes committed emerges.

A graduate of Minneapolis College of Art and Design and the M.F.A. program at Yale University, Strassheim earned a living as a forensic photographer during a six-year period between her undergraduate and graduate studies. She photographed autopsies and crime scenes in New York City post 9/11. In 2006, she participated in the Whitney Biennale. Her work has been displayed at Marvelli Gallery, New York; Musée de L’Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland; the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.; the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, Massachusetts; Falcouner Gallery at Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa; the Des Moines Art Center; and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

Strassheim will discuss her works in a conversation moderated by David E. Little, MIA curator of Photography and New Media, on Thursday, March 17, 6:30–7:30 P.M., at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, 2501 Stevens Avenue, Minneapolis.

ABOUT THE “NEW PICTURES” SERIES

Inaugurated in the fall of 2009, “New Pictures” features work by leading media artists from around the world every fall and spring. The series highlights the vital experiments in photography and new media undertaken by artists who grapple with making images that address contemporary culture. These exhibitions are distinguished by their dual focus on presenting cutting-edge artists from around the world, and helping audiences understand and explore the art-making process. Past “New Pictures” artists include Noriko Furunishi, Marco Breuer, and James Welling. Generous support for the New Pictures series is provided by H.B. Fuller.

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ABOUT THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA), home to one of the finest encyclopedic art collections in the country, houses more than 80,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history. Highlights of the permanent collection include European masterworks by Rembrandt, Poussin, and van Gogh; modern and contemporary painting and sculpture by Picasso, Matisse, Mondrian, Stella, and Close; as well as internationally significant collections of prints and drawings, decorative arts, Modernist design, photographs, textiles, and Asian, African, and Native American art. General admission is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee. Museum hours: Sunday, 11 A.M.–5 P.M.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 A.M.–5 P.M.; Thursday, 10 A.M.–9 P.M.; Monday closed. For more information, call (612) 870-3000 or visit www.artsmia.org.