SOUTHBOUND
Photographs of and about the New South

Lauren Henkin
Southbound: Photographs of and about the New South is a multimedia project co-curated by Mark Sloan, former Director and Chief Curator of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art and Mark Long, Professor of Political Science, at the College of Charleston in South Carolina.

Comprised of fifty-six photographers’ visions of today’s New South, Southbound represents the largest exhibition of Southern photography in the early twenty-first century. Each photographer is represented by four works, for a total of 220 photographs.

Southbound embraces the conundrum of its name. To be southbound is to journey to a place in flux, radically transformed over recent decades, yet also to the place where the past resonates most insistently in the United States. To be southbound is also to confront the weight of preconceived notions about this place, thick with stereotypes, encoded in the artistic, literary, and media records. Southbound engages with and unsettles assumed narratives about this contested region by providing fresh perspectives for understanding the complex admixture of history, geography, and culture that constitutes today’s New South.

The inclusion of fifty-six photographers, diverse as the landscapes and cultures of the South itself, offers a composite image of the region. From Mitch Epstein’s idyllic landscapes dotted with energy towers, to Lisa Elmaleh’s grainy tintype portraits of Appalachian folk musicians, to Sheila Pree Bright’s compelling black and white photographs of Black Lives Matter demonstrations in Atlanta, the American South is formed and reformed through the lens of photographers with distinct visions of the South. These photographs echo stories told about the South as a bastion of tradition, as a region remade through Americanization and globalization, and as land full of surprising realities.

Southbound’s purpose is to investigate senses of place in the South that congeal, however fleetingly, in the spaces between the photographers’ looking, their images, and our own preexisting ideas about the region.

Curator Bios
Mark Sloan was the director and chief curator of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston for 26 years before retiring at the end of 2020. Prior to his appointment to the Halsey Institute, Sloan was the associate director of San Francisco Camerawork and executive director of the Light Factory in Charlotte, N.C. He is also a practicing photographer whose works have been exhibited at many international venues, including the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia; the American Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.; and the Grand Palais, in Paris. He has curated dozens of photography exhibitions in his thirty-three-year career, including No Man’s Land: Contemporary Photographers and Fragile Ecologies, featuring Edward Burtynsky, Emmet Gowin, and David Maisel.

Trained in Ireland, Spain, and the U.S., Mark Long has been professor of political science and geography at the College of Charleston since 2002. His research concerns itself with how we see political and cultural geographies; recent publications have explored street art and editorial cartoons. He has guest-curated several exhibitions for the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, including Simon Norfolk’s Et in Arcadia Ego, Pedro Lobo’s architecture of survival, and Stuart Klipper’s Antarctica.
Catalogue
To accompany the exhibition, the Halsey Institute produced a comprehensive award-winning catalogue, including additional images by all exhibiting artists and a variety of essays offering a range of perspectives about the South. Essayists include William R. Ferris, former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities and former Senior Associate Director for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina; Eleanor Heartney, a contributing editor for Art in America, distinguished art critic, and author of several seminal volumes on contemporary art; and John T. Edge, acclaimed author and director of the Southern Foodways Alliance, an institute of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. The catalogue also features poems by Nikky Finney, Professor of Creative Writing and Southern Letters at the University of South Carolina and 2011 winner of the National Book Award for Poetry. Essays by Southbound co-curators Mark Sloan and Mark Long round out the diverse literary offerings. The volume was designed by award-winning graphic designer Gil Shuler and edited by Sloan and Long.

Film
The Halsey Institute commissioned Emmy Award-winning filmmaker John David Reynolds to produce a short documentary film featuring interviews with select photographers, writers, and Southern subjects. Fourteen "mini" video interviews were also produced to accompany the exhibition.

Interactive Map of the South
To allow Southbound visitors to create their own visions of the South, the Halsey Institute commissioned Dr. Rick Bunch, a geographic information science (GIS) and spatial cognition specialist, to design an interactive map of the South representing everything from street name maps to data collected on chicken processing plants and churchgoers, among other topics. Available on interactive technology inside the exhibition space, this Index of Southerness allows viewers to switch on-and-off indicators and create their own maps of the region.

Micro-Website
A stand-alone micro-website connected to the Halsey Institute’s website was produced to expand the exhibition’s reach. This site contains additional images by each photographer, links to essays, a commissioned playlist, and the interactive Index of Southerness.

Educational Programming and Materials
The Halsey Institute produced multiple symposia and panel discussions on the topics raised by Southbound. Topics rich for programming might include geography, history, religion, race and ethnicity, literature, documentary studies, foodways, music, and globalization and identity. In addition, a trifold brochure provides information about the exhibition, the artists, and excerpts from the curatorial essay. This free brochure will be given to each museum visitor and is included in the traveling exhibition.

About Us
The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston School of the Arts provides a multidisciplinary laboratory for the production, presentation, interpretation, and dissemination of ideas by innovative visual artists from around the world. As a non-collecting museum, we create meaningful interactions between adventurous artists and diverse communities within a context that emphasizes the historical, social, and cultural importance of the art of our time.

For more information, please visit us online at www.halsey.cofc.edu

Visit the traveling exhibition webpage at: http://halsey.cofc.edu/travel-exhibitions/southbound-photographs-of-and-about-the-new-south/
Exhibition Specs

Number of Works
220 framed photographic works

Dimensions
Variable – ranging (roughly) from 11 x 14 in. to 30 x 40 in.

Space Requirement
5,000 – 6,000 sq. ft.

Rental
$18,500 for 12 weeks, prorated for additional weeks

Shipping Costs
Venue pays for incoming shipping

Insurance
To be carried by venue

Exhibition Graphics
Graphics package includes wordmark, proprietary fonts, and label and wall text information in digital format

Supporting Materials
- An illustrated catalogue, produced by the Halsey Institute
- A commissioned 13-minute video
- Interactive technology for use with GIS mapping component
- Trifold brochure with essay excerpt and exhibition information

Exhibition Schedule

Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art and City Gallery at Waterfront Park
October 19, 2018 – March 2, 2019

Gregg Museum of Art & Design
September 5 – December 29, 2019

Power Plant Gallery at Duke University
September 6 – December 21, 2019

Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College
September 10 - December 10, 2021

Hunter Museum of American Art
January 30 – April 26, 2020

LSU Museum of Art
October 22, 2020 – February 14, 2021

For more information, contact Katie McCampbell Hirsch
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Participating Artists

1. Shelby Lee Adams
2. Rob Amber
3. Daniel Beltrá
4. Rachel Beilott
5. Sheila Pree Bright
6. Lucinda Bunnen
7/8. Keith Calhoun and Chandra McCormick
9. Langdon Clay
10. Maude Schuyler Clay
11. Thomas Daniel
12. Eliot Dudik
13. Matt Eich
14. Lisa Elmaleh
15. Mitch Epstein
16. McNair Evans
17. Lucas Foglia
18. Kyle Ford
19. Preston Gannaway
20. Alex Harris
21. John Lusk Hathaway
22. Titus Brooks Heagins
23. Lauren Henkin
24. Tim Hursley
25. Jessica Ingram
26. Will H. Jacks
27. Daniel Kariko
28. Tommy Kha
29. Kevin Kline
30. Stacy Kranitz
31. Gillian Laub
32. Deborah Luster
33. Tammy Mercure
34. Jeanine Michna-Bales
35. Greg Miller
36. Susana Raab
37. Tom Rankin
38. Tamara Reynolds
39. Jeff Rich
40. Eugene Richards
41. Kathleen Robbins
42. Euphus Ruth
43. Anderson Scott
44. Jerry Siegel
45. David Simonton
46. Chris Sims
47. Mike Smith
48. Magdalena Solé
49. Bill Steber
50. Mark Steinmetz
51. Brandon Thibodeaux
52. Burk Uzzle
53. Sofia Valiente
54. Michelle Van Parys
55. Jeff Whetstone
56. Susan Worsham