

SOUTHBOUND

Photographs of and about the New South





Susan Worsham

About the Exhibition

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art is organizing a multimedia project titled **Southbound: Photographs of and about the New South**. The project is co-curated by Mark Sloan, Director and Chief Curator of the Halsey Institute, and Mark Long, Professor of Political Science at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. *Southbound* will represent the largest exhibition of Southern photography in the early twenty-first century. Comprised of fifty-six photographers' visions of today's New South, *Southbound* will be on view simultaneously at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art and the City Gallery at Waterfront Park from October 19, 2018 – March 2, 2019. Each photographer will be represented by four works, for a total of 220 photographs. The exhibition will travel to three to five venues after the Halsey Institute.

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.

The Halsey Institute is proud to share that we have received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation to produce *Southbound*. Additionally, the Halsey Institute is collaborating with *Garden & Gun* Magazine as the exhibition's official media partner.

About the Artists

The fifty-six photographers chosen for inclusion range from lauded names like Jeff Whetstone and Deborah Luster, to emerging artists like Rachel Boillot, Tommy Kha, and Magdalena Solé. The group represents a sweeping range of styles, processes, and backgrounds. With photographers hailing from Atlanta, San Francisco, Hong Kong, New Orleans, and beyond, each has felt compelled to document the multitude of facets found in the American South.

Catalogue

To accompany the exhibition, the Halsey Institute is producing a comprehensive 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, now 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

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Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. The catalogue will also feature 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 will round out the diverse literary offerings. The volume will be designed by award-winning graphic designer Gil Shuler and edited by Sloan and Long. Publication is scheduled for Summer/Fall 2018.

Film

The Halsey Institute has commissioned Emmy Award-winning filmmaker John David Reynolds to produce a short documentary film featuring interviews with select photographers, writers, and Southern subjects. Video interviews will also be produced with exhibition photographers to be available on the micro-website for *Southbound*.

Interactive Map of the South

To allow *Southbound* visitors to create their own visions of the South, the Halsey Institute has 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 prison populations and churchgoers, among other topics. Available on interactive technology inside the exhibition space, this *Index of Southernness* will allow 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 will be produced to expand the exhibition's reach. This site will contain additional images by each photographer, links to essays, and additional information about the photographers and subjects of the

images. The interactive *Index of Southernness* will also be available on the website.

Educational Programming and Materials

The Halsey Institute will produce multiple symposia and panel discussions on the topics raised by *Southbound*. Such topics might include geography, history, religion, race and ethnicity, literature, documentary studies, foodways, music, and globalization and identity. To expand the impact of the show, members of College of Charleston faculty will offer special subject classes that address the South in tandem with the exhibition. Film screenings and artist lectures will also be offered. Guided exhibition tours for K-12 students, College of Charleston students, and the general public will be offered for the duration of the exhibition. In addition, a trifold brochure about the exhibition will be provided free for the public.

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

To see the full *Southbound* artist list, please visit <http://halsey.cofc.edu/travel-exhibitions/southbound-photographs-of-and-about-the-new-south/>



McNair Evans



Portrait by Jerry Siegel

Exclusive Donor Opportunity

Jerry Siegel, one of the fifty-six artists included in *Southbound*, has generously agreed to participate in an exciting opportunity for donors to the project. Donors at the “Hog wild” \$10,000 level and above will receive a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – an in-home portrait session with Siegel.

Siegel is one of the most sought-after portrait photographers in the South. His first monograph, *Facing South: Portraits of Southern Artists* was published by the University of Alabama Press in 2011. This body of work captured the likenesses of both renowned and emerging Southern artists in their intimate and familiar settings. *Facing South* has been featured in solo exhibitions at six museums in Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana.

In his second book, *Black Belt Color* (Georgia Museum of Art, 2017), Siegel focuses his attention on documenting the unique, cultural landscape of the South, concentrating on the Black Belt region of Alabama.

Siegel was born and raised in Selma, Alabama and graduated from the Art Institute of Atlanta. His work has been shown in solo exhibitions at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art New Orleans; the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia in Atlanta; the Telfair Museum, Jepson Center for the Arts, in Savannah, Georgia; the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in Montgomery, Alabama; the Morris Museum in Augusta,

Georgia; the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art in Auburn, Alabama; and the Mobile Museum of Art in Mobile, Alabama. His work is in many private and corporate collections, including those of the Ogden Museum, the High Museum of Art, the Georgia Museum of Art, the Birmingham Museum of Art, and eleven other southeastern US museums.

We are pleased to offer our generous \$10,000+ donors this exclusive opportunity to have their likeness captured by one of the most renowned portrait photographers in the South. Details on timing and location are to be mutually agreed upon. To learn more about Siegel, please visit:

<http://www.jerrysiegel.com/>

Exclusive Donor Print Collection

Donors at the “Well, I declare” \$500 level and above will have the chance to own a piece of *Southbound*. Four of the exhibiting artists: Rachel Boillot, Kevin Kline, Lucinda Bunnen, and Langdon Clay, have generously agreed to provide special-edition prints for supporters of the *Southbound* project.

Each artist has created twelve prints of the photographs shown on the following page. Donors will have the chance to select one of these prints to add to their personal collection. Further information on each print and artist is provided upon request. Prints will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

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Kevin Kline



Langdon Clay



Lucinda Bunnen



Rachel Boillot



I would like to support the project at the following level:

Ways Of Giving

Knee-high to a grasshopper.....\$250

- A copy of the exhibition catalogue
- Recognition on the exhibition website

Well, I declare.....\$500

- All of the above, plus:
- Invitation for two to the VIP reception during opening weekend
- Your choice of an exclusive, special-edition donor print from one of four *Southbound* artists: Rachel Boillot, Kevin Kline, Lucinda Bunnen, and Langdon Clay

Till the cows come home\$750

- All of the above, plus:
- Two copies of the exhibition catalogue
- Two VIP reserved seats to the *Southbound* discussion panel during opening weekend

Fixin' to\$1,000

- All of the above, plus:
- Recognition on the gallery wall during the exhibition, as well as in the Halsey Institute Fall 2018 Magazine

Y'all are so sweet.....\$2,500

- All of the above, plus:
- Four copies of the catalogue
- Recognition in the catalogue

Pretty as a peach\$5,000

- All of the above, plus:
- Recognition in the video credits
- Invitation for two to an exclusive dinner with select artists during opening weekend
- One-year Luminist membership to the Halsey Institute Luminist benefits detailed here - halsey.cofc.edu/sustain/join/

Hog wild.....\$10,000

- All of the above, plus:
- Portrait by Jerry Siegel, *Southbound* artist and one of the most sought-after portrait photographers in the South

Heavens to Betsy.....\$20,000

- All of the above, plus:
- Ten copies of the catalogue
- Invitation for four to the VIP reception and to an exclusive dinner with select artists during opening weekend during opening weekend
- Four VIP reserved seats to the *Southbound* discussion panel during opening weekend
- Our eternal gratitude

Donations may be made online here:

<https://friendsof.cofc.edu/halsey/donate>

Checks should be made out to Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, "Southbound" in the memo. Please mail checks to:

Tatajana Beylotte, Deputy Director
Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art
161 Calhoun Street, Suite 117
Charleston, SC 29424

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Please contact Tatjana Beylotte, Deputy Director, at (843) 953-5626 or beylottetf@cofc.edu if you have any questions about donations.

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Daniel Beltrá

