

HARRY RANSOM CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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PRESS

News Release — June 11, 2013

Exhibition Highlights Work Influenced by Harry Ransom Center's Collections

AUSTIN, Texas—The Harry Ransom Center presents "Contemporary Photographic Practice and the Archive," an exhibition created in cooperation with the Lakes Were Rivers collective, an Austin-based group of artists working in photography and video.

Members of the collective created a body of work influenced in some way by the Ransom Center—its space, its purpose, its collections. About 50 new works are displayed alongside Ransom Center collection materials chosen by the artists. The pairings highlight how archives and cultural collections stimulate new ideas and creative acts.

The exhibition runs from June 11 through Aug. 4 at the Ransom Center, a humanities research library and museum at The University of Texas at Austin.

The 11 artists in the Lakes Were Rivers collective focused on the process of discovery, on moments when the unexpected occurred and an unanticipated relationship between the Ransom Center collections and the artists' own work became apparent.

Photographic concepts of material, time and illusion shaped their encounters with the collections.

For example, Jason Reed discovered a remarkable kinship between his photographs of the Texas-Mexico border and those taken by W.D. Smithers nearly a century ago. Mike Osborne was intrigued by photographic surveys of rivers becoming lakes, directly linking the collective's name to material in the archive. Barry Stone saw parallels between his practice of purposefully introducing glitches in digital image data and earlier technical photographic experiments by Alvin Langdon Coburn and others. Susan Shahan responded to textures and structure in the archive, and Anna Krachey was captivated by degrees of translucency and opacity.

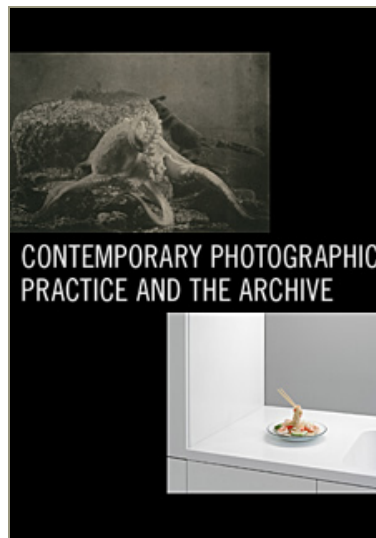
Items from the Ransom Center's collection represented in the exhibition include photographs by Ansel Adams and Man Ray, manuscripts from the Herschel family papers and the E.E. Cummings archive, William Blake's "Songs of Innocence," an embellished Maurice Ravel score and props from the Robert De Niro collection.

The Lakes Were Rivers artists are: Leigh Brodie, Elizabeth Chiles, Anna Krachey, Jessica Mallios, Sarah Murphy, Mike Osborne, Jason Reed, Ben Ruggiero, Adam Schreiber, Susan Shahan and Barry Stone. The collective takes its name from the fact that all the lakes in Texas except one were made from rivers.

High-resolution press images from the exhibition are available.

"Contemporary Photographic Practice and the Archive" can be seen in the Ransom Center Galleries on Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended Thursday hours to 7 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays the galleries are open from noon to 5 p.m. The galleries are closed on Mondays.

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