INSIDE/OUTSIDE: PRISON NARRATIVES
Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art
September 8 – November 21, 2015

Sandeep Black
Camilo Cruz
Amy Elkins
Ashley Hunt
Spencer Lowell
Los Angeles Poverty Department
Jason Metcalf
Mael Negreza
Shaila Pinkel
Richard Ross
Kristen S. Willkins

With a performance from Karla Diaz

Front Cover Photo: ASHLEY WOODS  Back Cover Photo: PATRICIA MILLER

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As a photographer and teacher, I think a lot about photography and how it is has evolved with the digital revolution—how iPhones, image editing, and massive amounts of photo sharing have changed how we use and understand photography. With each technological disruption, photography has morphed, assimilated and thrived, and at more than 175 years old, photography continues to assert itself as the perfect medium. Its inherent ability to simultaneously depict the world and express the viewpoint of its makers is its greatest power, and what has kept it on the visual cultural forefront since its inception. The medium has continually transformed, while being transformational.

The democratization of image making and sharing is the most significant of these recent transformations. Just about everyone has a camera on their mobile device and entry-level digital cameras make files about as good as professional equipment. Anyone can find a picture of anything online, download it and 'share' it. Copyright is still fought over by agencies and professionals, but for most, the notion that images are ‘owned’ is mostly ignored. Instagram, and other photo sharing sites are our preeminent platforms for viewing and sharing countless beautiful, amusing, poignant and provocative images, from beginners to masters of the medium. We’re experiencing the moment of the greatest interest in photography and the greatest means for showing it. It’s not just digitalization and distribution that have created this moment, but the inherent qualities of the medium itself.

Photo sharing sites are insatiable beasts, simultaneously generating and feeding a constant demand for more content. While personal imagery dominates, a developing eye for juxtaposition and composition is evident, and the quest for visual discovery is prevalent. Clichés still abound, but with such enthusiasm that I sometimes have to stop being critical. I love this moment and only wish for more documentary and street photography on these sites, but those displaying work by professionals (e.g. NYT Lensblog and Time Lightbox) fulfill this need many times over.

With this great democratization of visualization and expression, and the proliferation of quality amateur photographers comes a commensurate decline in the ability to make a living from photography, which is disheartening. I am optimistic though, that as with music, new avenues will be created, but for now I am just enjoying this flourishing moment of exuberance for making, seeing, and sharing images.

Thomas McGovern
Editor in Chief - Dotphotozine
andrew k.
THOMPSON

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The Salon is a wide ranging group exhibition of work by photographers of all styles and techniques that address issues from the obvious to the sublime. The power of this selection is driven by the individual photographers and their visions, and the effect of juxtaposing these disparate images is often the joy of discovering the subtle narrative implicit in each.
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violeta BRODIE

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