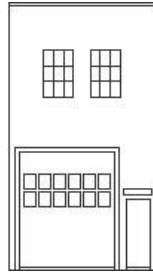


Susan Hobbs



Press Release

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Althea Thauberger

Althea Lorraine

Toronto, ON – opening on Thursday, 8 February from 6 to 8 p.m. and continuing through to 24 March, the Susan Hobbs Gallery is pleased to present *Althea Lorraine*, new photographic work by Althea Thauberger.

Lorraine Althea Monk was a photographer, curator, and maker of Canadian national identity. During her tenure as executive producer at the National Film Board's 'Still Image Division', she produced several books of photography (including *Call Them Canadians/ Ces Visages qui sont en pays*, 1967-68) and oversaw the development of *The People Tree* for Expo67's Canadian Pavilion. An ambitious social documentary and architectural project, the installation combined a vast selection of images portraying the citizens of Canada during the pivotal post-war period, "in all their racial and ethnic variety." However, alongside its utopian ambitions, the project reinforced an aggressive and assimilative form of government-sanctioned multiculturalism that maintained a white, middle-class center. So that, in effect, by engaging the concept of mosaic, the images worked hand-in-hand with the state to conceal real practices of discrimination and bias across race, culture, and socio-economic difference.

Working from inside the NFB's archive of still images, *Althea Lorraine* presents a series of photographic portraits of Althea Thauberger posed as Lorraine Monk ca. 1967. In a time when most women were excluded from positions of power and expressions of public voice, Monk skillfully exploited photography's unique capacity to both portray *and* construct. As such, with images of a woman reimagining herself as a woman who employed images to imagine a nation, Thauberger interrogates Monk as a key figure to expose photography as both an ideological and technical apparatus. A tool capable of conflating layers of time, expression, and cultural forces.

Althea Lorraine extends the artist's experimental video project *L'arbre est dans ses feuilles [The Tree Is in Its Leaves]* produced in collaboration with a group of young poets for *In Search of Expo 67* at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal.

Althea completed her BFA at Concordia University and her MFA at University of Victoria. She received the 2011 VIVA Award. Recent solo exhibitions include Audain Gallery/SFU, Vancouver and The Power Plant, Toronto. Her work is held in several public collections including MuHKA Museum, Antwerp; Mills College Art Museum, San Francisco; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver; Remai Modern, Saskatoon; and the Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina as well as private collections in Vancouver, Toronto, Montréal, New York, San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles, Trento and Berlin. Recently, her work was included in *L'avenir (looking forward)*, La Biennale de Montréal, *Shine a Light: Canadian Biennial 2014* at the National Gallery of Canada, *Field Guide* at Remai Modern, and *N. Vancouver* at Polygon Gallery.

Susan Hobbs Gallery is open to the public Wednesday to Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and by appointment. The gallery is located at 137 Tecumseth Street, Toronto.

For more information about this exhibition or the Susan Hobbs Gallery, please give us a call at (416) 504.3699 or visit www.susanhobbs.com.

