

SEANKELLY

Sullivan, Terry. "Cindy Sherman's self-portraits and 5 other photo exhibits worth seeing right now." *Popular Photography*, January 5, 2022.

Alec Soth: A Pound of Pictures



"Ames, Iowa," by Alec Soth, 2021, Archival pigment print. 24 x 30 inches, edition of 9 plus 4 artist's proofs. © Alec Soth

Whether I'm listening to Alec Soth (b. 1969) speak on a Youtube video or podcast, or simply looking at his many inventive images, I find the artist fascinating. He has a Walker Evans-type of outlook on the world that's addictive. He also has an incredibly alluring way of being casually compelling.

It's why I'm excited to see his upcoming show, "A Pound of Pictures," an exhibition of 16 large-format works photographed by Soth between 2018 and 2021, which will be appearing at three different galleries across the U.S. starting in mid-January 2022 and ending at the end of March (see below for exact dates).

But you might be wondering what the title of the show refers to. Soth says it came from an encounter with a vendor in Los Angeles who sold photographs "by the pound." However, it's great to hear how Soth describes it, in his own words, in a video about the work: "While making this work, I looked at a lot of pictures. I also collected a lot of pictures. And then finding out who are these people that have photographs. I'd go to flea markets, go on eBay, and I would gather these objects and just look at them and think about this medium, about what it means to be a photographer, and the different ways in which photographs live in the world. This desire to memorialize life when life is just going to keep whipping on by."

He continues on in the same wonderful, slightly rambling way, "For me, photography has always been this physical act. It's carrying this big box out into the world and trying to capture this image on this sheet of film, this substance

SEANKELLY

that has to be developed. And one of the things I started thinking about is the weight of these pictures, the accumulated weight of them, as they sit in my archive and as they sit out there in the world. And I found this person in Los Angeles who sold photographs by the pound. And I thought, 'Wow, how strange.' And it's like selling fish or something."

Soth goes on to discuss other aspects of creating this work, like wanting to communicate the feeling of the weight of history, the weight of time. (You can listen to the rest here.)

As he says in the video, he's come to the point where he's paying attention "to my own attention." It will be intriguing to see how that strategy plays out in the new photographs.

Where and when: The exhibition is taking place concurrently in three different locations throughout the U.S.:

- Minneapolis: Weinstein Hammons Gallery from January 28 – March 26, 2022
- New York: Sean Kelly Gallery from January 14 – February 26, 2022
- San Francisco: Fraenkel Gallery from February 3 – March 26, 2022

For more info on the exhibition, go to the gallery's website at weinsteinhammons.com.