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Editors. "Chasing waterfalls: Alec Soth's US road trip – in pictures." *The Guardian*, January 11, 2022.

The Guardian

The celebrated chronicler of American life started his latest photographic journey by following the route of Lincoln's funeral train ... and completed it by following darts thrown at a map

White Bear Lake, Minnesota, 2019

Alec Soth created *A Pound of Pictures* by making a series of road trips between 2018 and 2021. A solo show is at [Sean Kelly Gallery](#), New York from 14 January. Mack Books will publish [a new monograph](#) to coincide with the exhibitions. All photographs: Alec Soth/Courtesy Sean Kelly, New York/Mack Books



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Julie, Austin, Texas, 2021

The monograph includes extensive notes and texts by Soth, illuminating the practice and philosophy of one of the most important photographers working today. Each book will contain five randomly selected vernacular photographs loosely inserted within the pages.



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Stuart, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2021

For the last few months Stuart had been attending a Vietnamese Buddhist temple. 'I've nearly died twice. Some people feel bad for me, but I wouldn't change my experience for anything. I learned that nothing can be controlled except yourself. I don't force things. I stay open to everything'



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Queens, New York, 2019

Soth references Edward Hopper's *Early Sunday Morning*. Both images evince a similar uncanny stillness despite their urban settings and clear suggestions of life just behind their surfaces



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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2021

You can read more about this image in [the Observer's Big Picture](#)



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Quan Am Monastery, Memphis, Tennessee, 2021

Depicting a vast array of subjects – from Buddhist statues and birdwatchers to sun-seekers and a bust of Abraham Lincoln – this series reflects on the photographic desire to pin down and crystallise experience



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Ames, Iowa, 2021

Some of the photographs in this project were originally prompted by a desire to capture a different giant: Abraham Lincoln. In the spring of 1865, a train carrying Lincoln's corpse travelled from Washington DC to his hometown of Springfield, Illinois. Millions of Americans viewed the funeral train ... and Lincoln's rapidly decaying body. Soth began this project by following the path of the funeral train in an attempt to mourn the divisiveness in the US, but eventually abandoned the route and travelled by throwing a dart on a map to see where he would drive to next



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King & Sheridan, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 2021

Soth writes: 'If the pictures are about anything other than their shimmering surfaces then they are about the process of their own making'



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Niagara Falls, Ontario., 2019

Soth positioned his camera exactly where Fredric Edwin Church painted the falls in 1857, cementing the site's legacy in American art history – but today an observation deck and a group of tourists obstruct the view



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The Coachlight, Mitchell, South Dakota, 2020

A Pound of Pictures becomes a deeply self-reflective interrogation of Soth's entire body of work



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Neil, Winona, Minnesota, 2019

Soth, who is also an inveterate collector of photographs, describes the works in this exhibition as arising out of a wish to understand the 'weight' of photography both philosophically and metaphorically – as in the emotional weight of images



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Camera Club, Washington, Pennsylvania, 2019

The exhibition takes its title from a vendor Soth discovered on his travels in Los Angeles who sells photographs by the pound. Both poetic and prosaic, the images that comprise A Pound of Pictures demonstrate Soth's and others' longing to 'memorialise life while life continues to keep flipping by'



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Carmen, Williams, Arizona, 2020

Soth is hiding behind the camera while taking a shot of his daughter, Carmen. The image is reminiscent of Francesca Woodman on the cover of *Portrait of a Reputation*, a book Carmen had purchased on the trip with her father



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Tim and Vanessa's, Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania, 2019

A Pound of Pictures will have concurrent presentations at [Weinstein Hammons Gallery, Minneapolis](#) (from 28 January) and [Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco](#) (from February 3)

