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Cassady, Daniel. "Three exhibitions to see in New York this weekend." *The Art Newspaper*, January 28, 2022.

THE ART NEWSPAPER

From the jewels of the American Folk Art Museum's collection to Alec Soth's journey across the US



1Alec Soth, Camera Club. Washington, Pennsylvania. (2019) Courtesy: Sean Kelly, New York In this picture, taken at one of the oldest camera clubs in the US, amateur photographers look at prints of each others work on an old lightbox.

Alec Soth: *A Pound of Pictures*

Until 26 February at Sean Kelly, 475 Tenth Avenue, Manhattan

"It's a project born out of the ashes of a failed project. Originally, I wanted to make something important, something 'relevant to the times'," says the photographer Alec Soth about his new book and exhibition, "but trying to force something that isn't what you authentically want to do, it doesn't work." As a response to America's unhinged Trump years, Soth planned to follow the path of Abraham Lincoln's funeral procession and, in his style, photograph life along the way. But what began as an attempt to make an outward statement on the present became an inward study of the photographer's past and his love of the medium, a search for purity, a rebuilding of the muscles that make Alec Soth work. It is a show about making pictures that, while it has no overarching theme, allows the viewer to build their own associations from and relationships with the work on the wall. Some of the most powerful images are, fittingly, of other pictures—along his travels Soth often stops to buy photographs in bulk (often by the pound) from storage sheds and collectors across the US. It is a show that encourages the simple, and often beautiful act of observing.