

Photographer Alec Soth is back; Anoushka Shankar to perform at the O'Shaughnessy

By [Pamela Espeland](#) | 03/08/2019

In November, walking through “100 Years and Counting,” the look-at-us, we’re-back show at the Minnesota Museum of American Art’s new space in the Pioneer Endicott, we saw a familiar face: “Brian, Williston, ND,” Alec Soth’s portrait of an oil field worker. And we thought – Alec Soth! Where have you been? We haven’t heard a word about you in ages. Same when we saw Soth’s “Prom #1: Cleveland, Ohio” on the wall at the Walker in its new exhibition “Five Ways In.”

Then this, last week in the New York Times: “[A Year of Quiet Contemplation Led to the Rebirth of Alec Soth’s Photography.](#)”



Alec Soth, "Keni, New Orleans," 2018

Courtesy of the Weinstein Hammons Gallery

As the article says, Soth took a break. He meditated and pursued “an entirely different and private kind of art making.” He was happy. (It’s interesting that his final assignment before going on hiatus was taking photos for a story about a laughter yoga workshop in India.) Alarmingly, per the Times, “He thought his photography career might be over.” Then, “after a year of quiet contemplation, Mr. Soth decided to return to the life he knew. This time, he resolved to figure out how to photograph people in a way that felt right.”

We’ll see what that meant and how it played out next Friday, March 15, when [Weinstein Hammons Gallery](#) will hold an opening reception for “**Alec Soth: I Know How Furiously Your Heart Is Beating.**” This exhibition of new large-format photographs will be the Minneapolis-born and based photographer’s fifth solo show with the gallery.

Taken over the course of a year in cities across the globe – indoors, in people’s homes – the images depict domestic intimacy rather than geography or nationality. The title is a line in Wallace Stevens’ poem “The Gray Room.” [Here’s the whole \(short\) poem](#), if you’d like to read it. The poem could easily be a description of an Alec Soth photograph. From the Weinstein Hammons: “Soth expresses poetic mysteries unleashed from the quiet encounter in a stranger’s room beholding the fragile enigmatic beauty of another person’s life.”

“I Know How Furiously Your Heart Is Beating” will run in three cities at the same time, with ours opening first. The New York show will open March 21 and San Francisco on March 23. Note that the Weinstein Hammons is a small, street-level space in southwest Minneapolis. It’s likely to be a squeeze on opening night. 6-8 p.m. Free.