

Alec Soth Exhibitions Coincide with the Release of His New Monograph | Widewalls

January 26, 2022 Balasz Takac : 4-5 minutes

Many American photographers devotedly capture everyday life to cast a light on different modes of behavior, thinking, or doing, but almost nobody does it in a very special way as **Alec Soth**. The work of this talented photographer is strongly influenced by **Diane Arbus** and often compared with that of **Stephen Shore** and **Walker Evans**. Rooted in the American photographic tradition of documentary style, Soth's images showcase particularities of disconnected communities across the country.

Coinciding with the release of his monograph *A Pound of Pictures*, **the photographer's solo exhibition**, which will be mounted **across three venues**, highlights a new chapter in his kaleidoscopic observations of the iconography of daily life.



Alec Soth - Plastic Arts Club. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2019 archival pigment print mounted on Dibond covered with Lenox 100 paper.

Image/paper: 40 x 50 inches (101.6 x 127 cm) framed: 44 1/2 x 54 1/2 x 2 1/4 inches (113 x 138.4 x 5.7 cm). Edition of 9 with 4 APs. Signed by artist on label, verso

The Practice of Alec Soth

An established practitioner and a member of Magnum Photos, [Alec Soth](#) has gained a reputation for the way he captured the midwestern United States.

For his first book *Sleeping by the Mississippi*, published in 2004, Soth began photographing **different parts of the US** and continued doing so for his second book, *Niagara*, published in 2006. Between 2006 and 2010, he was exploring the idea of retreating under the pseudonym Lester B. Morrison, and this exploration resulted in *Broken Manual*, an underground instruction manual for those willing to escape their lives.

Throughout his practice, Soth also explored **hypnagogia**, yoga, and has photographed the iconic American choreographer Anna Halprin before her death.



Alec Soth - Niagara Falls, Ontario, 2019. Archival pigment print mounted on Dibond covered with Lenox 100 paper image/paper: 52 x 65 inches (132.1 x 165.1 cm) framed: 56 1/2 x 69 1/2 x 2 1/4 inches (143.5 x 176.5 x 5.7 cm). Edition of 9 with 4 APs. Signed by artist on label, verso

A Pound of Pictures

The new body of work is comprised of images Soth made between 2018 and 2021 during **numerous road trips across the States**. He conducted this particular strategy to explore the connection between the ephemerality and physicality of photography as a medium. The exhibition title refers to a vendor Soth discovered on his travels in Los Angeles who

sells photographs by the pound. These photographs demonstrate the photographer's interest in **documenting life while it continues to flow**.

A Pound of Pictures turns out to be self-reflective interrogation of Soth's entire oeuvre. From Buddhist statues and birdwatchers to sun-seekers and a bust of Abraham Lincoln, the series reflects **a specific way of seeing** based on the agenda of crystallizing experience.



Alec Soth - Tim and Vanessa's. Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania, 2019. Archival pigment print mounted on Dibond covered with Lenox 100 paper.
Image/paper: 52 x 65 inches (132.1 x 165.1 cm), framed: 56 1/2 x 69 1/2 x 2 1/4 inches (143.5 x 176.5 x 5.7 cm). Edition of 9 with 4 APs, signed by artist on label, verso AS-PP.19.69

Alec Soth Coinciding Exhibitions

The current and upcoming exhibitions underline Soth's philosophically charged explorations of photography and the emotional weight of images. The newly released monograph features extensive notes and texts by Soth that illuminate his process.

Alec Soth: A Pound of Pictures will be on view at [Sean Kelly Gallery](#) in New York from **January 14th until February 26th, 2022**, as well as at [Weinstein Hammons Gallery](#) in Minneapolis from January 28th to March 26th, 2022 and [Fraenkel Gallery](#) in San Francisco from February 3rd to March 26th, 2022.

Featured images: Installation views of Alec Soth: A Pound of Pictures at Sean Kelly Galley.
Photos by Cooper Dodds, courtesy of Sean Kelly Gallery.