

## The rebirth of Alec Soth

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Known above all for the book *Sleeping by the Mississippi* (2004), Alec Soth is considered the heir to the photographic tradition dating back to Walker Evans and Robert Frank, dedicated to the story of American life. According to New York Times critic Hilarie M. Sheets, Soth has a special talent for getting in tune with strangers, especially if they are solitary and dreamers.

In 2016, Soth was in India for a New York Times Magazine assignment. That journey marked a change in his career: he felt he wanted to stop for a while. For a year he stopped photographing.

Until, in 2017, while he was in San Francisco, he met the 97-year-old choreographer Anna Halprin, who invited him to her home. The portrait he made was very similar to his previous photographs, but there was something different: "It seemed to me to return to my photography and I didn't want to stop living experiences like that," explains Soth.

That was the first of a series of portraits that *gave* birth to the series *I know how furiously your heart is beating*, which takes its name from a poem by Wallace Stevens. For a year, Soth has traveled and photographed people he met on his journey: usually alone, in their homes, using only natural light, shooting with a large format machine. "I wanted to capture the beauty and mystery that can occur in a short meeting that takes place in a private space," explains Soth.

The work became a book, published by Mack, and some photos are exhibited at the Weinstein Hammons gallery in Minneapolis, until May 4, 2019.