

FEAST FOR THE EYES – THE STORY OF FOOD IN PHOTOGRAPHY 18 OCTOBER 2019 – 9 FEBRUARY 2020

Press Release: 23 July 2019

“Food – and how it is photographed – defines how we live and how we value ourselves, and, at its very best, connects us to our dreams and desires.” - Susan Bright, Co-curator

Feast for the Eyes is a major exhibition at The Photographers' Gallery, exploring the rich history of food photography through some of the leading figures and movements within the genre. Encompassing fine-art and vernacular photography, commercial and scientific images, photojournalism and fashion, the exhibition looks at the development of this form and the artistic, social and political contexts that have informed it.

Food has always been a much-photographed and consumed subject, offering a test ground for artistic experimentation and a way for artists to hone their skills. But even the most representative images of food have rarely been straightforward or objective. Food as subject matter is rich in symbolic meaning and across the history of art, has operated as a vessel for artists to explore a particular emotion, viewpoint or theme and express a range of aspirations and social constructs. With the advent of social media, interest in food photography has become widespread with the taking and sharing of images becoming an integral part of the dining experience itself, used as instant signifiers of status and exacerbating a sense of belonging and difference.

Feast for the Eyes looks particularly at how food is represented and used in photographic practices and brings together a broad-range of artists, including such luminaries as Stephen Shore, Man Ray, Weegee, Martin Parr, Nan Goldin, Nobuyoshi Araki and Cindy Sherman, all of whom harness the history and popularity of food photography to express wider themes. Crossing public and private realms the works on show evoke deep-seated questions and anxieties about issues such as wealth, poverty, consumption, appetite, tradition, gender, race, desire, pleasure, revulsion and domesticity.

The Photographers' Gallery
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London W1F 7LW

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The Photographers' Gallery is a registered charity no. 262548. The Photographers'

Presented over two floors, and featuring over 140 works, from black and white silver gelatin prints and early experiments with colour processes to contemporary works, the exhibition is arranged around three key themes: *Still Life* traces food photography's relationship to one of the most popular genres in painting and features work that is both inspired by the tradition and how it has changed in the course of time. *Around the Table* looks at the rituals that takes place around the consumption of food and the cultural identities reflected through the food we eat and people we eat with. Finally, *Playing with Food* shows what happens when food photography is infused with humour, fun and irony. The exhibition will also feature a number of magazines and cookbooks which provide an additional visual and social

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history of food photography.

Feast for the Eyes traces the history and effect of food in photography, simultaneously exploring our appetite for such images while celebrating the richness and artistic potential of one of the most popular, compulsive and ubiquitous of photographic genres.

-ENDS-

Press Contacts

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For General information and enquiries about The Photographers' Gallery, including their archive, Print Sales Gallery or Bookshop contact:

Celia Graham-Dixon on + 44 (0) 207 087 9346 or email celia.g.dixon@tpg.org.uk

Notes for Editors

The full list of exhibiting artists is as follows:

Participating Artists: Nobuyoshi Araki, Guy Bourdin, Imogen Cunningham, Roe Ethridge, Marion Faller and Hollis Frampton, Rotimi Fani Kayode, Roger Fenton, Peter Fischli and David Weiss, Nan Goldin, Daniel Gordon, Rinko Kawauchi, Russell Lee, Laura Letinsky, Vik Muniz, Nickolas Muray, Martin Parr, Irving Penn, Man Ray, Martha Rosler, Ed Ruscha, Cindy Sherman, Stephen Shore, Edward Steichen, Wolfgang Tillmans, Lorenzo Vitturi, Tim Walker, Andy Warhol, Weegee, Edward Weston, Hank Willis Thomas and many others.

Feast for the Eyes – The Story of Food in Photography is organised by the Aperture Foundation, New York and curated by Susan Bright and Denise Wolff.

Biogs available upon request.

The Photographers' Gallery

The Photographers' Gallery opened in 1971 in Great Newport Street, London, as the UK's first independent gallery devoted to photography. It was the first public gallery in the UK to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller, Robert Capa, Sebastiano Salgado and Andreas Gursky. The Gallery has also been instrumental in establishing contemporary British photographers, including Martin Parr and Corinne Day. In 2009, the Gallery moved to 16 – 18 Ramillies Street in Soho, the first stage in its plan to create a 21st century home for photography. Following an eighteen months long redevelopment project, the Gallery reopened to the public in 2012. The success of The Photographers' Gallery over the past four decades has helped to establish photography as a recognised art form, introducing new audiences to photography and championing its place at the heart of visual culture. www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Visitor Information

Opening times: Mon – Sat, 10:00 - 18:00; Thu, 10:00 - 20:00; Sun, 11:00 - 18:00
Admission: £5 / £2.50 and then free from 17:00 daily.

Address: 16-18 Ramillies Street, London W1F 7LW
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Image 1
Weegee
Phillip J. Stazzone is on WPA and enjoys his favourite food as he's heard that the Army doesn't go in very strong for serving spaghetti, 1940
© Weegee/International Center of Photography,



Image 2
Jo Ann Callis
Untitled, 1994; from the series Forbidden Pleasures
© Jo Ann Callis
Courtesy the artist and Rose Gallery, Santa Monica, California



Image 3
Grant Cornett
Sexy Sliders, 2016 for Gather Journal, food styling by Janine Iversen and prop styling by Maggie Ruggiero
© Grant Cornett
Courtesy the artist



Image 4
Ed Ruscha
Spam, 1961
© Ed Ruscha
Courtesy the artist and Gagosian Gallery



Image 5
Joseph Maida
#jelly #jello #fruity #fruto #thingsarequeer, October 26, 2014
Courtesy the artist



Image 6
Photographer unknown
'New Recipes for Good Eating'
Crisco, Proctor and Gamble, Cincinnati, 1949



Image 7
Martin Parr
New Brighton, England, 1983–85
© Martin Parr/Magnum Photos



Image 8
Daniel Gordon
Pineapple and Shadow, 2011
© Daniel Gordon
Courtesy the artist and James Fuentes Gallery, New York



Image 9
Russell Lee
The Faro Caudill Family Eating Dinner in Their Dugout,
Pie Town, New Mexico, 1940
Courtesy The Library of Congress Prints and
Photographs Division



Image 10
Nobuyoshi Araki
The Banquet, 1993
© Nobuyoshi Araki
Courtesy Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo

Press information

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