

STACY KRANITZ

As it was Give(n) to Me

October 25 - December 7, 2019

Reception for the artist: Friday, October 25, 6-8pm

Artist Talk: Saturday, October 26, 2pm

Tracey Morgan Gallery is pleased to present *As it Was Give(n) to Me* an exhibition of photographs and ephemera by artist Stacy Kranitz. This is Kranitz's second exhibition with the gallery. A reception for the artist will be held Friday, October 25, 6-8pm and an Artist Talk will be held Saturday, October 26, 2pm.



As it was Give(n) to Me is a collection of images, taken by Kranitz, over a ten year span. The series traces exploration and extraction in the Appalachian region of the United States. This exhibition was recently exhibited at **Rencontres d'Arles Photography Festival** in France and shortlisted for the **Louis Roederer New Discovery Prize**. A forthcoming monograph of this series will be published by Twin Palm in the Spring of 2020.

Beginning in the 19th Century, the Appalachian region was devastated by the coal industry which took valuable resources from the land, leaving the inhabitants of the region impoverished. In the 1960s, the War on Poverty was declared, with the government announcing it would put an end to poverty in America and Appalachia was the epicenter. Kranitz states "Photographers descended on Appalachia to make images that would help unite Americans around the effort to improve the lives of a destitute and struggling people. Instead, the photographers offered a simplistic and superficial image of poverty that has haunted the Appalachian people ever since."

Kranitz began work on this series in 2009. While there, she became aware of the problematic role of photography in this region. "I began by reckoning with the fact that I had come to Appalachia with a fantasy of what I wanted it to be. I realized this fantasy contested my desire to provide an objective portrayal because objectivity in documentary photography is its own kind of fantasy. My work in Appalachia is about the tension between these two desires."

Much like a novel, the work in this exhibition is presented in chapters: Arrival, Exploration, Extraction, Mutiny and Salvation. In these chapters, photographs, ephemera, drawings, maps and histories tell the story of the region. Kranitz's photographs give us a look at life in Central Appalachia complete with landscapes, industry, religion, poverty, and the residents who inhabit these communities. In addition, Kranitz has included self-portraits inspired by the 1967 historical fiction novel *Christy* by Catherine Marshall. Kranitz re-imagined herself as the title character Christy Huddleson by staging plot lines and entanglements in the Tennessee landscape. A selection of portraits recently made while Kranitz was the Artist in Residence in the Great Smokey Mountain Park will be exhibited for the first time.

Stacy Kranitz lives and works in Smithville, Tennessee. Kranitz received her B.A. from New York University and her MFA from University of California, Irvine. Kranitz has exhibited both nationally and internationally. Her work is included in the traveling exhibition *Southbound: Photographs of and About the New South* and was exhibited at *Rencontres d'Arles Photography Festival* this summer. She is the recipient of the Michael P. Smith Fund for Documentary Photography, 2017 and the Time Magazine Instagram Photographer of the Year, 2015.

TRACEY MORGAN GALLERY

188 COXE AVENUE ASHEVILLE NC 28801 828.505.7667 TRACEYMORGANGALLERY.COM

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For images and additional information contact info@traceymorgangallery.com Image above: *Gatlinburg, Tennessee, 2015* image below: *Stacy as Christy, 2010*



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