

Basic Detail Report



Gary Gilpatrick, Insulator, from the series "Lunch Break"

Date
2008

Primary Maker
Sharon Lockhart

Medium
Three chromogenic prints

Description

Sharon Lockhart is a Los Angeles–based photographer and filmmaker. For her projects, which often incorporate both still photography and film, she typically immerses herself in a community over a long period of time, eventually creating work with the community's trust and collaboration. In 2008, over the course of a year, Lockhart made the films *Lunch Break* and *Exit*, featuring the workers of the Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine—the state's largest employer, founded in 1884—as well as three accompanying series of photographs. During *Lunch Break*'s eighty-three minutes (extended in slow motion from eleven minutes of shooting), the camera moves along a corridor that stretches the length of a shipyard, recording the human interactions and activities that occur among a group of highly skilled blue-collar workers. The artist focused on the midday break as a moment of social engagement within the capitalist structure of labor—a disappearing ritual as more and more plants stagger lunch shifts to increase productivity. Of the photographs, eighteen, including this triptych, are still lifes showing particular workers' lunchboxes and their contents in fastidious detail, amounting to psychological portraits of their owners. Gary Gilpatrick, *Insulator* includes such details as its owner's cigarettes and medications, a newspaper, and a magnifying glass and pencil for completing the daily crossword puzzle. The triptych was included in the Wellin's Spring 2013 exhibition *In Context: The Portrait in Contemporary Photographic Practice*, curated by Assistant Professor of Art Robert Knight, and was purchased for the collection once the exhibition had concluded. (SOURCE: Alcauskas, *INNOVATIVE APPROACHES, HONORED TRADITIONS*, 2017) Belongs to the series "Lunch Break" in which Lockhart presents the social dimensions of blue-collar workers at the Bath Iron Works through photographs of workers socializing during their breaks, still-lives of their lunch boxes and the snack shops workers frequent. Collectively, "Lunch Break " reveals the fraught relationship between Lockhart's subjects and the postindustrial global economy, where blue-collar workers find themselves in an increasingly unstable and perilous bargaining position.

Dimensions

Sheet (each): 24 × 30 in. (61 × 76.2 cm) Frame (each): 25 1/8 × 31 1/8 × 2 in. (63.8 × 79.1 × 5.1 cm)