



Jerry Uelsmann Counterculture

Photographs 1960s-70s

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EXHIBITION PROSPECTUS

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The ghostly form of a tree rises from the ocean like an atomic blast. A meteorite hovers above a girl asleep in a meadow. A halved nut is lodged in a woman's chest like a strange, malformed lung. Jerry Uelsmann's surreal photographs are among the most recognizable ever made, yet their meanings remain stubbornly ambiguous. "Obviously symbolic, but not symbolically obvious," as Uelsmann likes to say, they provoke thought without providing easy answers.

This unique exhibition is the first to focus on the social, political and personal context of Uelsmann's early works. Made up of vintage prints selected directly from the artist's studio archive, *Jerry Uelsmann Counterculture* features photographs made during the 1960s and 70s. From the Cold War to the Civil Rights Movement, and from the Summer of Love and Women's Liberation to Watergate, this was a time of profound change in the United States and Europe. Reflecting the period in which he worked and occasionally referencing current events in his pictures, Uelsmann set out to explore the collective zeitgeist, securing a place for individual thought and feeling amid the rapidly shifting currents of popular opinion.

Counterculture features many of Uelsmann's best-known photographs, combined with spectacular, never before seen examples. Praised as one of the "fathers of Photoshop" for using multiple negatives to create seamless photomontages, he nevertheless makes his photographs in a traditional darkroom, using a series of carefully arranged enlargers, masks and templates. This exhibition demonstrates Uelsmann's extraordinary virtuosity with this demanding technique. At the same time, it reveals his boundless creativity. His "Post-Visualized" photographs are not only products of camera and lens, they are expressions of his restless imagination.

Photographs 1960s-70s

The exhibition engages with educational themes including the history and politics of 1960s and 70s America, symbolism and meaning in art, photographic technique, photomontage and darkroom practices, personal identity and interpersonal relationships.

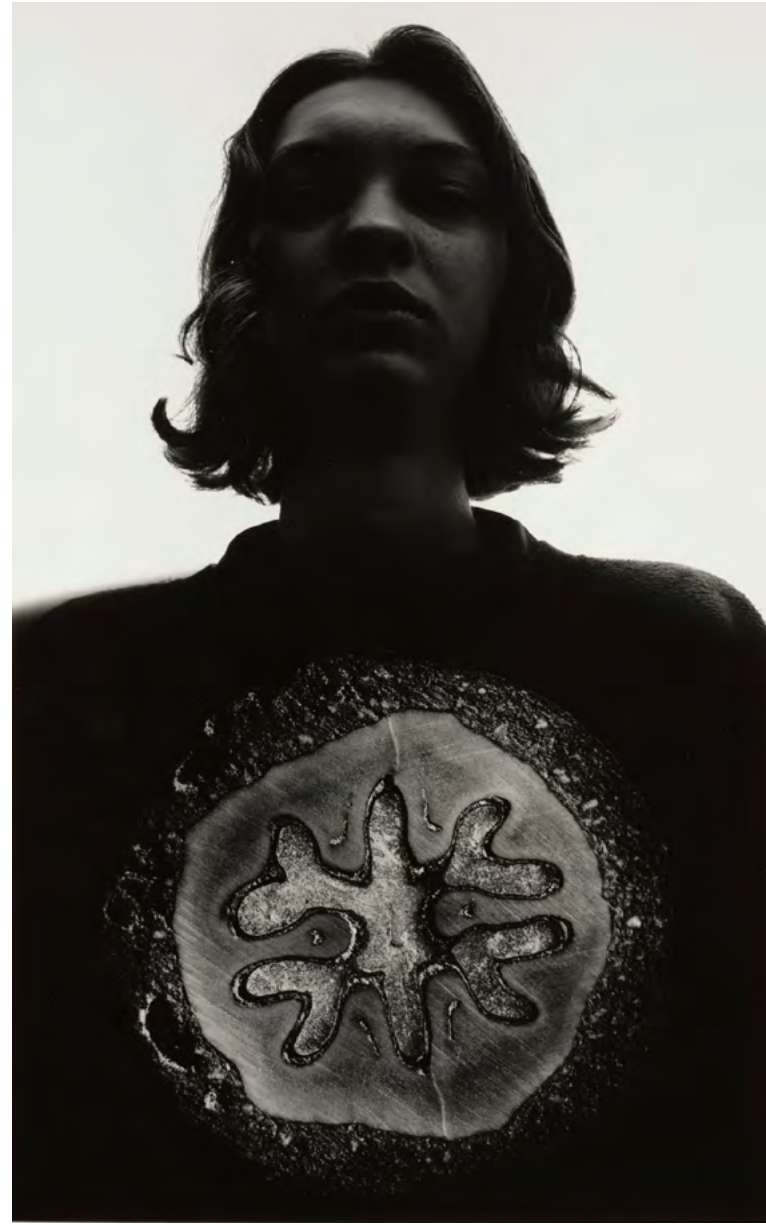
All works courtesy Solander Collection



Untitled, 1969
Gelatin Silver Print



Magritte's Touchstone, 1965
Gelatin Silver Print



Untitled, 1964
Gelatin Silver Print



Apocalypse II, 1967
Gelatin Silver Print



Untitled, 1971
Gelatin Silver Print



Untitled, n.d.
Gelatin Silver Print



In search of a cause, 1966
Gelatin Silver Print



Untitled, 1976
Gelatin Silver Print



Listening, 1975
Gelatin Silver Print



Rock Tree, 1969
Gelatin Silver Print



Untitled, 1975
Gelatin Silver Print



Untitled, 1977
Gelatin Silver Print



Untitled (self portrait), 1965
Gelatin Silver Print



Bless Our Home & Eagle, 1962
Gelatin Silver Print



Home is a Memory (Variant), 1963
Gelatin Silver Print



Room#2, 1963
Gelatin Silver Print



Untitled, 1967
Gelatin Silver Print



Myth of the Tree, 1963
Gelatin Silver Print



Small woods where I met myself (final version), 1967
Gelatin Silver Print



Untitled, 1971
Gelatin Silver Print



Untitled, 1977
Gelatin Silver Print



Little Golden Hamburger Tree, 1970
Gelatin Silver Print

INQUIRIES

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FEE

Please Inquire

WORKS

99 framed photographs
(gelatin silver print)

DIMENSIONS

Various

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

300 linear feet
(100 linear meters)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Curator available for lectures
and panel discussions.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Phillip Prodger is Executive Director of Curatorial Exhibitions and former Head of Photographs at the National Portrait Gallery, London.

ARTIST BIO

Jerry Uelsmann (b. 1934) is an American photographer best known for his innovative work with the photomontage technique. In 1967, Uelsmann made his debut at The Museum of Modern Art in New York with his first solo show and went on to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship (1967) and a National Endowment for the Art Fellowship (1972) shortly thereafter. Today, the artist's works are in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, among others. Uelsmann lives and works in Gainesville, FL, where he taught photography for nearly four decades at the University of Florida. He is a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, a founding member of The Society of Photographic Education and a former trustee of the Friends of Photography.



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