



NORMAN MAUSKOPF: *Descendants*

An exhibition of vintage and rare gelatin silver prints from the making of the photographic book *Descendants* (Twin Palms, 2010) which documents the Hispanic culture of Northern New Mexico over the course of a decade.



Norman Mauskopf, *Near Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico*, 2003, Printed 2010, 1 of 2, 6.75 x 17.75", gelatin silver print

Friday, September 13, 2024

Book Signing: 4pm

Artist Reception: 5-7pm

Exhibition is on view September 6 through November 3, 2024

Obscura Gallery presents *Norman Mauskopf: Descendants*, a photographic exhibition of rare and vintage, black and white gelatin silver prints that were made by the photographer for the publication by the same name, published by Twin Palms in 2010. The prints in the exhibition include both published and unpublished images made for the book, which focuses on the Hispanic peoples and cultures of Northern New Mexico. Many of the prints were included in the application for the very first W. Eugene Smith Fellowship, which Mauskopf was then awarded in 2002. The book is out of print and Norman will be signing and selling his remaining copies at 4pm on Friday September 13; followed by the reception with the artist from 5-7pm.

225 Delgado Street. Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 505-577-6708 info@obscuragallery.net

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NORMAN MAUSKOPF, *Espanola, New Mexico*, 2001, Printed 2010, 1 of 2, 7 1/4 x 11", gelatin silver print.

Northern New Mexico is a complex weave of pride and history. In this region of ancient traditions and striking environmental and ethnic diversity, Norman Mauskopf spent a decade photographing the Hispanic people and their culture. The photographs that emerged depict the intersection of religion, injustice, community, and transcendence.

The book also includes the poetry of New Mexican poet Jimmy Santiago Baca. A segment from the poem, *Singing at the Gates*, reads:

*and newborns scream their arrivals,
and fathers with wrist chains and tattoos
cling to their little loves in parks,
and the circle widens and expands and ripples
toward every closed gate, with tribal drums beating,
gourds blowing and rattles rattling
we are here, we are here, we are here*

Born in 1952 in Santa Fe of Chicano and Apache descent, Jimmy Santiago Baca was 21 in 1973, when he was convicted on drug charges and spent five years in prison. It was there that he learned to read and began writing poetry and is now a prominent poet and screenwriter. Baca is the winner of the Pushcart Prize, the American Book Award, the International Hispanic Heritage Award, and, for his memoir *A Place to Stand*, the prestigious International Award. Baca has devoted his post-prison life to writing and teaching others who are overcoming hardship. His themes include American Southwest barrios, addiction, injustice, education, community, love, and cultural difference. He has conducted hundreds of writing workshops in prisons, community centers, libraries, and universities throughout the country.



NORMAN MAUSKOPF, Left: *Santa Fe, New Mexico*, ca. 1998, Printed 2007, 1 of 1, 17 3/4 x 11 7/8", gelatin silver print. Right: *Santa Fe, New Mexico*, 2007, Printed 2007, 1 of 3, 8 7/8 x 5 15/16", gelatin silver print.

During a distinguished 35-year photography career, Norman Mauskopf has had four award-winning books of his photographs published by Twin Palms/Twelvetrees Press, and he has been the recipient of a W. Eugene Smith Fellowship. His most recent book, *Descendants*, published in 2010, was a pictorial exploration of Latino culture in northern New Mexico—its ancient traditions, striking landscapes and ethnic diversity. *A Time Not Here*, published in 1997, focuses on African-American musical and spiritual traditions in Mississippi and was described as “a focused documentary of astonishing beauty.” His second book, *Dark Horses*, published in 1988, documents the world of thoroughbred horseracing and was described as “classic photojournalism slyly refracted through prisms of drama, majesty and humor.” Norman’s first book, *Rodeo*, published in 1985, looks into the lives of professional rodeo cowboys. About the images in *Rodeo*, author Ben Maddow wrote, “They are not merely photographs but observations deeply seen and deeply felt. . . . Norman has uncovered something profound and instinctive.” Norman has also completed a rare documentary on the legal brothels of Mustang, Nevada.



NORMAN MAUSKOPF, Left: *Nicholas Herrera, El Rito, New Mexico, 2004*. Printed 2010, 1 of 3, 7 1/4 x 11", gelatin silver print. Right: *El Rito, New Mexico, 2004*, Printed 2010, 1 of 3, Image size 7 1/4 x 10 15/16", gelatin silver print.

Norman Mauskopf's photographs have been included in solo and group exhibitions, including two shows at the International Festival of Photojournalism in Perpignan, France. He has been a photographic educator for more than 30 years, including teaching at the Santa Fe Workshops, the Maine Photographic Workshops, and at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California.



NORMAN MAUSKOPF, *Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2008*, Printed 2010, 1 of 26 3/4 x 17 7/8", gelatin silver print.



NORMAN MAUSKOPF, *Alcalde, New Mexico*, 2003, Printed 2003, 1 of 3, 8 7/8 x 5 15/16", gelatin silver print.



NORMAN MAUSKOPF, *Las Golondrinas, New Mexico*, 2007, Printed 2010 1 of 3, 6 3/4 x 17 7/8", gelatin silver print.



NORMAN MAUSKOPF, *La Puente, New Mexico*, 2005, Printed 2010, 1 of 1, 6 3/4 x 17 7/8", gelatin silver print.