

# In Time We Shall Know Ourselves

American Photographs, 1974



Raymond Smith

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by Raymond Smith

In the summer of 1974, a young man drove an aging Volkswagen from New England through the South and into the Midwest, camping and photographing people and places along the way to California. The car died in Kansas City and Ray Smith took the train home to New Haven, Connecticut, where he printed some of the 750 exposures he had made with his Rolleiflex and Minolta twin-lens cameras. Few of these rare prints have been exhibited or published until now, the fortieth anniversary of Smith's trip. Hence, the title of this portfolio of 52 black and white prints—*In Time We Shall Know Ourselves: American Photographs, 1974*.

Smith has acknowledged “the work of Walker Evans, with whom I studied while in the Graduate Program in American Studies at Yale University in 1971-1972, and Robert Frank, whose *The Americans* (1959) suggested a model for my sequence.” The majority of his photographs are portraits of people encountered in his travels, with additional images of the American vernacular landscape (i.e., highways, street scenes, storefronts, movie theatres) serving as punctuation.

For Smith, “Photography...is more closely related to literature, especially fiction (despite its proclivity to depict ‘reality’), than it is to other visual arts. Whether the location is a city sidewalk, a back yard, a roadside or a door front, for me the portrait is primary, and the photograph is a short story exploding beyond its frame.” He says, “I had no intention of defining a person by his or her surroundings, though I felt intuitively that these details and incidentals offered, not commentary, but a kind of texture, lending the portraits a sheen of ambiguity and a measure of wonder, like the furniture in a room in a Henry James novel, or the reflection in a storefront window.”

Cover Image: *Fotomat Girl, Louisville, Kentucky*

This page, Top to Bottom:

*Happy Rabbit and Guard Mouse, Stoneville, North Carolina*

*Theater Marquee, Evening, Evanston, Illinois*

*Ice Cream Break, Deland, Florida*





### **Publications**

A hardbound book of the same title with essays by Alex Nemerov and Richard King accompanies the exhibition. The book is available for purchase through the artist.

### **Requirements**

The exhibition requires approximately 150 linear feet of installation space. It must be installed in galleries devoted solely to the exhibition of art; no natural or fluorescent light is allowed. Art must be displayed at or under 10 foot-candles. Appropriate 24-hour climate control, security, and fire suppression systems must be maintained. A current AAM Facilities Report is required.

### **Terms and Availability**

Fifty-two matted and framed black & white photographs on 8 x 10 inch paper, all dated 1974. Forty-six were printed by the artist in 1974-1975 on double-weight glossy Agfa Portriga Rapid Paper because of the luminosity and tonal qualities of the paper. Six were printed by the artist in 2012 on double-weight Ilford Warm-Tone Glossy Fabric paper because the Portriga Rapid is no longer available. All will travel matted in 20 x 16 inch wooden frames.

The exhibition is available for 8-10 week periods through December 2018 for the cost of outgoing shipping, insurance, and a modest fee of \$2,000.

Shipping arrangements will be made by the MMFA. Object labels will be provided electronically.

The artist is available to discuss his work.

### **For more information**

Michael Panhorst, Curator

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[mpanhorst@mmfa.org](mailto:mpanhorst@mmfa.org)

<http://www.mmfa.org/exhibitions.aspx?id=56>



This page, Top to Bottom:

*Cecil, Alabama, on the Road to Montgomery*

*Cafe, Sealy, Texas*

*Garage Mechanic, Blakely, Georgia*

*Back Cover: Rural Highway, Southern Georgia, after Rainstorm*





Contact: Sarah Graves, Collections Information Specialist, [sgraves@mmfa.org](mailto:sgraves@mmfa.org)








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Checklist






1.	<p>Raymond Smith <i>Security Guard, Jacksonville, Florida, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 5.25 x 5.25 inches Lent by the artist</p>	
2.	<p>Raymond Smith <i>Rural Highway, Southern Georgia, after Rainstorm, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 7 inches Lent by the artist</p>	
3.	<p>Raymond Smith <i>Holiday Rest Stop, near Morgantown, West Virginia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 8 x 7 inches Lent by the artist</p>	
4.	<p>Raymond Smith <i>Farm Workers' Family, Dillon, South Carolina, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 7 inches Lent by the artist</p>	
5.	<p>Raymond Smith <i>War Veteran, Central Ave., St. Petersburg, Florida, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 6.5 x 5.75 inches Lent by the artist</p>	

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6.	<p>Raymond Smith <i>Bourbon Street, New Orleans, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 8.75 x 7.25 inches Lent by the artist</p>	
7.	<p>Raymond Smith <i>Garage Proprietor, Blakely, Georgia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 6 x 5 inches Lent by the artist</p>	
8.	<p>Raymond Smith <i>Cafe, Sealy, Texas, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 5.25 x 4.75 inches Lent by the artist</p>	
9.	<p>Raymond Smith <i>Ice Cream Break, Deland, Florida, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 6.25 x 6.25 inches Lent by the artist</p>	
10.	<p>Raymond Smith <i>Woman with Girlhood Collage, Southington, Connecticut, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 7 inches Lent by the artist</p>	

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11.	Raymond Smith <i>Fotomat Girl, Louisville, Kentucky, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 5.5 x 5 inches Lent by the artist	
12.	Raymond Smith <i>Proprietress, Roadside Cafe, Sealy, Texas, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 7 inches Lent by the artist	
13.	Raymond Smith <i>Three Generations, near Culpeper, Virginia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 6.25 x 6.25 inches Lent by the artist	
14.	Raymond Smith <i>Mother and Daughter, Orlando, Florida, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.5 x 7.25 inches Lent by the artist	
15.	Raymond Smith <i>House Painter with Tree Drawing, Shiloh Church, Carlinville, Illinois, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.25 x 7 inches Lent by the artist	

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16.	Raymond Smith <i>New Picture Books, Stoneville, North Carolina, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.25 x 7.5 inches Lent by the artist	
17.	Raymond Smith <i>Garage Attendant, Colquitt, Georgia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 8 x 7 inches Lent by the artist	
18.	Raymond Smith <i>Sunday Morning, Boston, Massachusetts, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.5 x 7.5 inches Lent by the artist	
19.	Raymond Smith <i>"P G Club" (African-American Social Club), Sandusky, Ohio, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.5 x 7.5 inches Lent by the artist	
20.	Raymond Smith <i>Outside Vocelka's Bar, Omaha, Nebraska, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.5 x 7.5 inches Lent by the artist	








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21.	Raymond Smith <i>Boys in Parked Car, Meridian, Mississippi, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 5.25 x 5.25 inches Lent by the artist	
22.	Raymond Smith <i>House Guardians, Diamond, Missouri, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 5.5 x 6 inches Lent by the artist	
23.	Raymond Smith <i>Woman in Doorway, Fredericksburg, Virginia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.75 x 6.75 inches Lent by the artist	
24.	Raymond Smith <i>Garage Mechanic, Blakely, Georgia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.5 x 7 inches Lent by the artist	
25.	Raymond Smith <i>Barber Shop, Deland, Florida, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 6.75 inches Lent by the artist	

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26.	Raymond Smith <i>Father and Son, Vegetable Stand, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 6 x 5.25 inches Lent by the artist	
27.	Raymond Smith <i>Street Crossing, Kansas City, 1974, printed 2012</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 7.25 inches Lent by the artist	
28.	Raymond Smith <i>Alpine Theater, Rainelle, West Virginia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 4.5 x 6.25 inches Lent by the artist	
29.	Raymond Smith <i>Theater Marquee, Evening, Evanston, Illinois, 1974, printed 2012</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 6.75 x 7 inches Lent by the artist	
30.	Raymond Smith <i>Boy on Bicycle, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 7 inches Lent by the artist	

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31.	Raymond Smith <i>American Flag, Midland, Pennsylvania, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 4 x 5.5 inches Lent by the artist	 A black and white photograph of an American flag hanging in a window of a building with a stone or brick facade. The flag is centered between two windows.
32.	Raymond Smith <i>College Student, Baltimore, Maryland, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 6.5 x 6 inches Lent by the artist	 A black and white photograph of a young woman standing in front of a brick wall. She is wearing a white halter-neck top and high-waisted shorts, and has her hands on her hips.
33.	Raymond Smith <i>On the National Limited, Kansas City to New York, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 5.5 x 5.25 inches Lent by the artist	 A black and white photograph of a man in a suit sitting on a train. He is looking out the window, and his hand is near his face.
34.	Raymond Smith <i>Jukebox Reverie, Carlinville, Illinois, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 6.5 x 7.75 inches Lent by the artist	 A black and white photograph of a woman sitting on a bench in a room with wood-paneled walls. There is a jukebox and a poster on the wall behind her.
35.	Raymond Smith <i>Saloon Interior, Columbus, Texas, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 5 x 5.25 inches Lent by the artist	 A black and white photograph of the interior of a saloon. Several people are visible, including a bartender behind the bar and patrons.

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36.	Raymond Smith <i>Men on Front Porch, Kansas City, 1974</i> , printed 2012 Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 7.25 inches Lent by the artist	
37.	Raymond Smith <i>Cecil, Alabama, on the Road to Montgomery, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 8 x 6 inches Lent by the artist	
38.	Raymond Smith <i>Bus Stop, Kansas City, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 6.75 inches Lent by the artist	
39.	Raymond Smith <i>Mother and Children, Kansas City, 1974</i> , printed 2012 Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 7 inches Lent by the artist	
40.	Raymond Smith <i>Street-Corner Preacher, Savannah, Georgia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.5 x 7.5 inches Lent by the artist	








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41.	Raymond Smith <i>Caregiver with Children, Savannah, Georgia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.75 x 7 inches Lent by the artist	
42.	Raymond Smith <i>Girl's Bedroom, Orlando, Florida, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 6.75 x 6.75 inches Lent by the artist	
43.	Raymond Smith <i>Bus Stop, from Car Window, Houston, Texas, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 7 inches Lent by the artist	
44.	Raymond Smith <i>Union Station, Kansas City, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 7 inches Lent by the artist	
45.	Raymond Smith <i>Burial Ground, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Hale County, Alabama, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 7.5 inches Lent by the artist	

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46.	Raymond Smith <i>Wolfie's Restaurant, at Night, Miami Beach, Florida, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 6 x 8.5 inches Lent by the artist	
47.	Raymond Smith <i>Woman with Groceries, Savannah, Georgia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 6.75 x 8 inches Lent by the artist	
48.	Raymond Smith <i>Roadside Cemetery, near Midway, Georgia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.75 x 7.5 inches Lent by the artist	
49.	Raymond Smith <i>Morrisville, North Carolina, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.75 x 7.5 inches Lent by the artist	
50.	Raymond Smith <i>Demopolis, Alabama (for Walker Evans), 1974, printed 2012</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7 x 7 inches Lent by the artist	

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51.	<p>Raymond Smith <i>Self Portrait, Motel Room, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1974,</i> printed 2012 Gelatin Silver Print, 6.75 x 7 inches Lent by the artist</p>	 A black and white photograph of a man, Raymond Smith, standing in a motel room. He is wearing a dark jacket and glasses, and is holding a camera. In the background, there is a bed with a dark headboard and a framed picture on the wall.
52.	<p>Raymond Smith <i>James River Ferry, Virginia, 1974</i> Gelatin Silver Print, 7.5 x 8.75 inches Lent by the artist</p>	 A black and white photograph showing a group of people on a ferry deck. A woman in a light-colored top and shorts is leaning over the railing, looking out. Another woman in a light-colored top and dark pants is standing nearby. A child is sitting on the floor in the foreground. The railing has an American flag on it. The background shows a wide river and a distant shoreline.