

STEVEN
KASHER
GALLERY

Meryl Meisler (b. 1951)

Meryl Meisler was born 1951 in the South Bronx and raised in North Massapequa, Long Island, NY. Inspired by Diane Arbus and Jacques Henri Lartigue, Meryl began photographing herself, family, and friends while enrolled in a photography class taught by Cavalliere Ketchum at The University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 1975, Meryl returned to New York City and studied with Lisette Model, continuing to photograph her hometown and the city around her. Meryl worked as a freelance illustrator by day and moonlighted as a bartender at infamous New York discos. As a 1978 CETA Artist grant recipient, Meryl created a portfolio of photographs which explored her Jewish Identity for the American Jewish Congress. After CETA, Meryl began a 31 year career as a NYC Public School Art Teacher and continued to photograph.

Meisler's work has been exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum, the New Museum, Dia Art Foundation, MASS MoCA, and The Whitney Museum of American Art. Public Art projects include site-specific installations at Grand Central Terminal and in the NYC subway system. Meisler has received fellowships and grants from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Puffin Foundation, Time Warner, Artists' Space, CETA, the China Institute and the Japan Society. Her work can be found in numerous important collections including the American Jewish Congress, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the Brooklyn Historical Society, the Centre Georges Pompidou, the Chrysler Museum, Columbia University, Islip Art Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, Library of Congress, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Upon retiring from the NYC public school system in 2010, Meisler began releasing large bodies of previously unseen work. Meryl's first monograph *A Tale of Two Cities: Disco Era Bushwick* (Bizarre, 2014), received international acclaim. The book juxtaposes her zenith of disco photos with images of the burned out yet beautiful neighborhood of Bushwick, Brooklyn in the 1980s. Her second book, *Purgatory & Paradise SASSY '70s Suburbia & The City* (Bizarre, 2015), contrasts intimate images of home life on Long Island alongside NYC street and night life.

Meryl lives and works in New York City, continuing the photographic memoir she began in 1973 – a uniquely American story, sweet and sassy with a pinch of mystery.

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SELECT COLLECTIONS

American Jewish Congress
AT&T
Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris
Brooklyn Historical Society
Carnegie Mellon
Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
Chrysler Museum of Art
Columbia University
Islip Art Museum
Library of Congress
Metronome Library
Metropolitan Transit Authority, New York
Museum of Modern Art, New York
New York Hall of Science
Pfizer
Reuters
Whitney Museum of American Art

SELECT SOLO SHOWS AND PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS

2016 *Meryl Meisler*, Steven Kasher Gallery, NY, NY
2016 *B&B: Bizarre & Bushwick*, Black Box Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
2015 *Purgatory & Paradise SASSY '70s Suburbia & The City*, Black Box Gallery, BK, NY
2014 *A Tale of Two Cities Disco Era Bushwick*, Black Box Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
2013 *Defying Devastation: Bushwick Now & Then*, The Living Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
2012 *Defying Devastation: Bushwick In The 80s*, The Living Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
2011 *Here I Am: Bushwick In The 1980s*, Soho Photo Gallery, NYC, NY
2009 *Locks, Combinations and Keys*, PS 122 Gallery, NYC, NY
2005 *Deep Research*, Columbia University Social Work Library, NYC, NY, Permanent installation
2004 *Fire and Ice*, AT&T Art and Appreciation public art installation, South Street Seaport, NYC, NY
2001 *Submerged*, Metropolitan Transit Authority Transit Poster Project
1999 *Meryl Meisler: Deep Research*, Hopper House, Nyack, NY
1998 *Meryl Meisler: Immersions*, SUNY Westchester Gallery, Peekskill, NY
1996 *Meryl Meisler: Grand Splash*, installation at Grand Central Terminal, NY

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2014 *Signs of Education*, (all artists work based on Meisler's photos), Ventana244 Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

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- 2013 *Street Photography 2013*, Soho Photo Gallery, NYC, NY
2012 *Abandonment*, PowerHouse Arena, Brooklyn, NY
2011 *An Exchange with Sol Lewitt*, MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA
2007 *Up From Flames: Mapping Bushwick's Recovery 1997- 2007*, Brooklyn Historical Society, NY
2004 *Tomorrow*, New York Hall of Science, Queens, NY
2002 *WaterWalks*, ISE Cultural Foundation, NYC, NY • *Ground Zero*, Detroit Museum of Contemporary Art
2001 *Digital: Revolutions in Printmaking*, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY
2000 *WomenTek*, Peninsula Fine Arts Museum, Newport News, VA
1999 *The Time of Our Lives*, The New Museum, NYC, NY • *The Light Show*, Islip Art Museum, Islip, NY
1996 *All American Portraits*, Naproskovo Museum Prague and Severoceske Museum, Liberec, North Bohemia
1991 *AIDS Timeline*, Whitney Museum of American Art Biennial Exhibition, NYC, NY

PUBLICATIONS

- Purgatory & Paradise SASSY '70s Suburbia & The City* (Bizarre Publishing, 2015)
A Tale of Two Cities Disco Era Bushwick (Bizarre Publishing, 2014)

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Photographer Rediscovered There's No Place Like Home*, Renee Ghert-Zend, The Times of Israel, 12/20/15
From settled suburbia to the wild city, Mia De Graaf, Daily Mail, 11/29/15
Family Photos from the '70s show the quirky ways Americans celebrate the holidays, Business Insider, 11/26/15
Purgatory & Paradise: Photographer Contrasts 1970 NYC Nightlife & LI Town, Parco, NY Daily News, 11/19/15
Meryl Meisler: The World That Summer, Brad Feurhelm, 11/05/15
A Memoir in Photos: New York's Sassy '70s, David Rosenberg, Slate, 11/05/15
Seventies Long Island: The Whole Mishpocha, The New Yorker, 06/03/15
A Tale of Two Cities: Disco Era Bushwick in Photos, Janet Flanagan and Kirsti Itameri, PBS WNET TV, 10/15
Meryl Meisler Explores The History Of A Neighborhood", James Nichols, Huffington Post 10/23/14
Meryl Meisler's Vintage NY Photographs, Michael Ernest Sweet, Huffington Post, 08/31/15
Wo bitte liegt Bushwick? Where on Earth is Bushwick? Angelika Hala, 08/22/14
Meryl Meisler's Disco Era, Genevieve Fussell, The New Yorker, 08/07/14
Stayin' Alive, Jonathan Mahler, New York Times, 06/13/14

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Interview: Meryl Meisler on Disco Era Bushwick, Jeanette D. Moses, 06/09/14

Disco-era Bushwick, Melissa Stern, Hyperallergic, 05/30/14

The Latest Vibe Moved to Brooklyn, Holland Cotter, The New York Times, 06/07/12

New York fur Fortgeschrittene, Suzanne Lingemann, Klaus Prompers, German ZDF TV, 08/11/12

Bushwick: Brooklyn's Newest Frontier, Gabe Pressman, NBC TV, 2/17/11

SELECT AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

2014 Puffin Foundation Grant

2002 China Institute Study/Tour of China Fellowship 2001 Japan Society Study/Tour of Japan Fellowship

2000 New York Foundation for the Arts Catalogue Project Grant for Women Photographers 1990 New York Foundation For The Arts Fellowship in Photography

1979 C.E.T.A. Photographer Grant for The American Jewish Congress, NYC