



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Ann Hamilton Photographs in Historic Philadelphia's Sites, Old Swedes' Church, Old Saint George's Church, Free Library, and Carpenters' Hall for *Taken with Time*, A Camera Obscura Project

PHILADELPHIA: Internationally-renowned artist, Ann Hamilton, undertakes a new photography project in preparation of The Print Center's fall exhibition *Taken with Time: A Camera Obscura Project* which will also include commissioned work by Vera Lutter and Abelardo Morell.

Taken with Time brings together three internationally recognized contemporary artists in the field of photography who have taken a unique and innovative approach to reviving the magical camera obscura, a simple device for capturing an image. It is a box, sometimes as big as a room, with a hole in one of its walls. Light passing through the hole produces an inverted image of the view outside on the opposite interior wall. The light is very dim inside a camera obscura necessitating a long exposure time to capture the projection. In *Taken with Time* each of the three invited artists—**Ann Hamilton** (Columbus, OH), **Vera Lutter** (New York, NY) and **Abelardo Morell** (Boston, MA)—has devised his or her distinct method of executing the time-consuming exposures resulting in three images representing Philadelphia's architectural, social and industrial histories.

Ann Hamilton visited Philadelphia April 29 - May 1 and will **return June 11-18** to place pinhole cameras at multiple sites which exemplify Philadelphia's rich tradition as a political and religious meeting place. Hamilton selected Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church, Old Saint George's Church, Free Library and Carpenters' Hall in Old City, as significant places where Philadelphians have in the past and still continue now to gather. The churches represent the colony's edict of religious freedom. Old Saint George's Church is known as "The Cradle of American Methodism" and Gloria Dei which has been in use since 1700 making it the oldest church building in Pennsylvania and the second oldest in the country. Here, Hamilton will place a set of rectangular cameras on or near the altar and pews to capture the congregation's movements during the service. The Free Library is a public site where everyone and anyone is welcome to obtain knowledge. Small pinhole cameras will be placed on the balconies of Pepper Hall to record Philadelphians coming together to educate themselves. Carpenters' Hall was the meeting site of the First Continental Congress in 1774, which had political repercussions leading to the country's independence. During the first week of the opening, Hamilton will place a circa 1800's round table in the center and invite visitors to read in unison a historical text. Their joint effort will be recorded with a round pinhole camera with multiple apertures custom made for the table.

The exhibition is scheduled for **September 7 – November 11, 2006** and is curated by Jacqueline van Rhyne, Curator of Prints and Photographs at The Print Center. *Taken with Time* is made possible by the Philadelphia Exhibition Initiative, a granting program of the Philadelphia Center for Arts and Heritage, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and administered by The University of the Arts, Philadelphia.

The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including 11 exhibitions annually; The Print Center Gallery Store, offering the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; an extensive series of continuing education programs; and special events.

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