



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Vera Lutter's Camera Obscura at 30th Street Station for *TAKEN WITH TIME*, A Camera Obscura Project

PHILADELPHIA: Internationally renowned artist, Vera Lutter, 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 Ann Hamilton 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.

Vera Lutter, with the help of The Print Center and Amtrak, will create a shipping-container sized camera obscura, which will be placed on the northwest corner of the second floor of the Amtrak parking garage at 30th Street Station. This site affords a west view overlooking the rail yard, a rail bridge, and Amtrak's abandoned steam plant. Lutter will capture her image directly on photographic paper, not on negative film, making a series of unique photographs. Weather permitting; the exposure will take place during the second and third weeks of April.

Lutter will use Amtrak's Acela Express to travel daily between her studio in New York and the camera obscura in Philadelphia. Each morning she will 'load' photographic paper onto the back wall of her camera obscura. The total time of the exposure will depend on the intensity of the daylight, from a few hours on a bright sunny day to possibly even 2 days of dreary overcast. After the exposure is completed, Lutter will pack the exposed paper in a light-tight tube and return to her studio in New York. There she will develop the image in her custom-made darkroom where she can easily process the over-sized photographic paper. The final images will depict the sites with great factuality but also have a ghost like appearance. Lutter's ghostly representation of an industrial site will encapsulate Philadelphia's once flourishing industrial age.

The exhibition is scheduled for **September 7 – November 11, 2006** and is curated by Jacqueline van Rhyn, Curator of Prints and Photographs at The Print Center. Vera Lutter will give an artist lecture at the University of Pennsylvania on October 23rd at 5:00 pm. *TAKEN WITH TIME* is made possible by the Philadelphia Exhibition Initiative, a grant program 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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