



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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***Taken with Time, A Camera Obscura Project with
Ann Hamilton, Vera Lutter and Abelardo Morell***

September 7 – November 11, 2006

Thursday, September 7: Opening Reception 5:30-7:30pm; Benefit Dinner with the Artists 7:30pm

PHILADELPHIA: The Print Center presents *Taken with Time: A Camera Obscura Project*. The exhibition is the culmination of a project which commissioned photographs by **Ann Hamilton** (Columbus, OH), **Vera Lutter** (New York, NY) and **Abelardo Morell** (Boston, MA) made with the camera obscura—the oldest and simplest photographic device—temporarily installed by each artist in different locations throughout Philadelphia.

In *Taken with Time*, three internationally recognized artists are brought together to celebrate their unique and innovative approaches to reviving the magical camera obscura. The camera obscura 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 on the opposite interior wall of the view outside. The light is very dim inside necessitating a long exposure time to capture the projection. Each artist devised their own method of executing the long exposures resulting in images that represent Philadelphia's architectural, social and industrial histories.

Ann Hamilton used multiple cameras, miniature in size compared to Morell's and Lutter's. Interested in capturing congregations of people and the reading of text, the artist selected five different sites: Carpenters' Hall, Free Library of Philadelphia, Rosenbach Museum and Library, Old St. George's Church and Gloria Dei (Old Swede's) Church. One of Hamilton's cameras, a circular wooden camera with multiple apertures, will be on view during the exhibition.

Vera Lutter created a shipping-container sized camera obscura on the northwest corner of the second floor of the Amtrak parking garage at the new Cira Centre at 30th Street Train Station. Facing west, the camera overlooked the rail yard, trestle bridge and Amtrak's abandoned steam heating plant. Lutter captured her image directly on large-scale photographic paper, not on negative film, making her photograph one-of-a-kind.

Abelardo Morell converted Gallery 171 in the Modern and Contemporary wing of The Philadelphia Museum of Art into a giant camera obscura. Through a small hole in one of the gallery's windows, Morell projected the corner of the museum's East Entrance onto a Giorgio de Chirico painting. Morell captured the projected image of the museum with three large format cameras, one loaded with color film, a first for Morell.

The exhibition will be on view September 7 - November 11, 2006 and was curated by Jacqueline van Rhyn, Curator of Prints and Photographs at The Print Center. A **benefit dinner** with the artists at the home of Gallery 339 owners Martin McNamara and Tom Callan, will immediately follow the opening reception on Thursday, September 7 at 7:30. *Taken with Time* is made possible by the **Philadelphia Exhibition Initiative**, a granting program of the Philadelphia Center for the 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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