

DANIEL W. COBURN: THE HEREDITARY ESTATE

By Aline Smithson | July 2, 2014



Daniel W. Coburn is a bright light in the fine art photography world—he’s a wonderfully talented photographer and writer, and has been hard at work on his newest project, a retrospective monograph titled, *The Hereditary Estate* printed and distributed by [Kehrer-Verlag](#), which will be released in Fall 2014. *The Hereditary Estate* is not only a ten year retrospective, but also a conceptual work of art. Dan’s work and research “investigates the family photo album employed as the visual infrastructure for the flawed ideology of the American Dream. Frustrated by the lack of images that document the true and sometimes troubling nature of his own familial history, he set out to create a new archive, a potent supplement to the broken family album that exists in the collection of many families. Using photographs made over the last decade, and altered amateur photographs, he weaves a family narrative that is simultaneously beautiful and terrifying. The careful sequencing of these images creates a powerful psychological dialogue designed to inspire an emotional and visceral response from the viewer. The international distribution of this book completes an essential conceptual component of this work, placing this supplementary album into family collections in countries all over the world.” The images are presented with two thoughtful essays contributed by Karen Irvine, Curator and Associate Director at the [Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago](#), and Kirsten Pai Buick, Associate Professor of Art History at the University of New Mexico.

For a limited time, Daniel is offering a special pre-sale edition of *The Hereditary Estate*. Proceeds from this sale help finance exhibition opportunities surrounding the release of the book. You can purchase it [here](#).

Today we feature images from one section of the book, *Waiting for The Rapture*, that examines family and faith.



Support Lenscratch

DONATE

Stay Up-to-date

SUBSCRIBE

Daniel W. Coburn lives and works in Lawrence, Kansas. His work and research investigates the family photo album employed as a visual infrastructure for a flawed American Dream. Selections from his body of work have been featured in exhibitions at the Los Angeles Center for Digital Art and the Chelsea Museum of Art in New York. Coburn's prints are held in collections at the Museum of Contemporary Photography (Chicago), the University of New Mexico Art Museum, the Mulvane Museum of Art, the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, and the Mariana Kistler-Beach Museum of Art. He has been invited as a guest lecturer at national and international photography events including the International Festival of Photography in Belo Horizonte, Brazil and the Helsinki Photo-Media Conference. Coburn received his BFA with an emphasis in photography from Washburn University. He received his MFA with distinction from the University of New Mexico in 2013. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Photo Media at the University of Kansas.




Lovers Embrace ©Daniel Coburn

Waiting for Rapture

Quiet suffering occurs within a family unit living under the auspices of the ideal American Dream. A psychologically violent relationship with loved ones, and an immersive cult-like experience with an evangelical Christian church contributed to my loss of spiritual and domestic faith.

These issues take center-stage in a story that emerges from the walls of a single-family sanctuary and unfolds onto a Midwest landscape. In my story, these characters exist at the intersection of domestic duress and spirituality.

I photograph my family in parables of love, reverie, respect and quiet tragedy. These images are a tangible manifestation of fantasy, memories and experiences acquired during my journey to adulthood, and function as a supplement to the family album assembled by my parents.


 Community
 Exhibitions
 Classes
 Workshops
 Lectures
 Catalogs
 Juried Opportunities
 Portfolio Reviews
 and more!
The Griffin Museum of Photography
 67 Shore Road
 Winchester, MA 01890

The States Project



ROUND HOLE SQUARE PEG 4
 INTERNATIONAL LGBTQ PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

AT
PHOTOLA



the heart goes nine

a Call for Entries
 J. Sybilla Smith Juror



Armada ©Daniel Coburn



Figuration ©Daniel Coburn

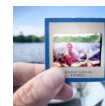
SHOTS
— magazine —
THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF BAW PHOTOGRAPHY

free submissions for subscribers!

More in Conceptual



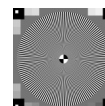
France Week:
Michael Honegger:
My Human Comedy



Catherine Panebianco:
No Memory Is Ever Alone



Bill O'Donnell: Solid
and Space



Greece Week:
Michael Almiroudis:
Genius Seculi



Greece Week:
Katerina Tsakiri: A
Simple Place

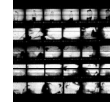
Greece Week: Ilias Georgiadis:
Over.State



Ascent ©Daniel Coburn



The Matriarch ©Daniel Coburn



Virgil DiBiase: My husband won't tell me his first name



Nathalie Seaver: Deconstructing Beauty



Diane Fenster: HY•ST•ER•IA: Body as Battleground



Mehves Lelic: On Adornment

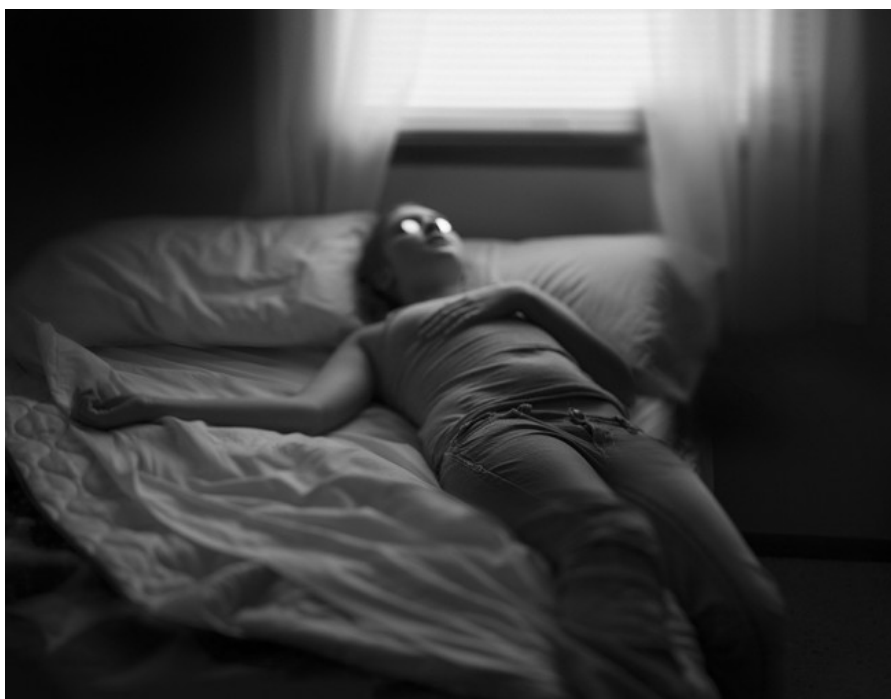
Los Angeles Center of Photography

CALL FOR ENTRIES
Street Shooting Exhibition

Recent Posts



Taker of the Tolls ©Daniel Coburn



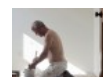
Fare for the Ferryman ©Daniel Coburn



**France Week:
Michael Honegger:
My Human Comedy**
December 2nd, 2019



**Michael Galinsky:
The Decline of Mall Civilization**
November 30th, 2019



**Juan Giraldo: East
17th Street**
November 29th, 2019



**The 2019 Lenscratch
FAMILY Exhibition**
November 28th, 2019



**The 2019 Lenscratch
FAMILY Exhibition,
Part 2**
November 28th, 2019



**The 2019 Family
Exhibition, Part 3**
November 28th, 2019



**Judi Iranyi:
Remembering
Michael**
November 27th, 2019



**Daniel Peebles:
Mise-en-Scène**
November 26th, 2019



**Catherine
Panebianco: No
Memory Is Ever
Alone**
November 25th, 2019



**Bill O'Donnell: Solid
and Space**
November 23rd, 2019



Diane Meyer: Berlin
November 22nd, 2019



**Robert Conrad:
Memories of the
Wall**
November 21st, 2019



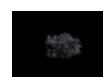
**Russell Joslin: Alone
Forever Sometimes**
November 20th, 2019



**American Truth:
Complex Views of
the American
Experience**
November 19th, 2019



**David Benjamin
Sherry: American
Monuments**
November 18th, 2019



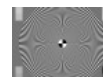
**Greece Week:
Christina Papas: In
the Black of Light**
November 16th, 2019



Panoptic Stain ©Daniel Coburn



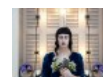
Suspension ©Daniel Coburn



**Greece Week:
Michael Almiroudis:
Genius Seculi**
November 15th, 2019



**Greece Week:
Ioanna Sakellaraki:
The Truth is In The
Soil**
November 14th, 2019



**Greece Week:
Katerina Tsakiri: A
Simple Place**
November 13th, 2019



**Greece Week: Ilias
Georgiadis:
Over.State**
November 12th, 2019



**Greece Week:
Giannis Manolis: The
Hunter, The Woman
and The Hut**
November 11th, 2019



**A Certain
Uncertainty:
Selections from the
Cassilhaus Collection**
November 8th, 2019



**Virgil DiBiase: My
husband won't tell
me his first name**
November 7th, 2019



**Lynne Buchanan:
Florida's Changing
Waters**
November 6th, 2019



**Awareness: Allan
Gill, Janna Ireland,
Laura Parker, Ni
Rong, Bill Sosin and
Robert von
Sternberg**
November 5th, 2019



**Jonathan Higbee:
Coincidences: New
York By Chance**
November 4th, 2019



**Strange Light: The
Photography of
Clarence John
Laughlin at the High
Museum**
November 2nd, 2019



**Nathalie Seaver:
Deconstructing
Beauty**
November 1st, 2019



**Diane Fenster:
HY•ST•ER•IA: Body
as Battleground**
October 31st, 2019



**Christine Lenzen:
Forever a Wilderness**
October 30th, 2019

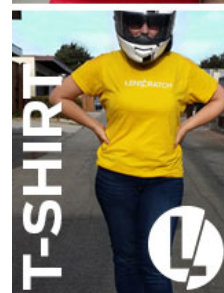


Revival ©Daniel Coburn



Judgement Veil ©Daniel Coburn

Follow Us On Facebook





Communion ©Daniel Coburn



The Empath ©Daniel Coburn



Resurrection ©Daniel Coburn

Tags: [Black and White](#), [Family](#), [Photography Book](#)

Posts on Lenscratch may not be reproduced without the permission of the Lenscratch staff and the photographer.

[NEXT | Portraits in Contemporary Photography at the Drift Gallery >](#)
< [William Coupon: The Punks of New York](#) | [PREV](#)

[Tweet this article](#) [Share on Facebook](#) [Pin on Pinterest](#)

Recommended



France Week:
Michael Honegger: My Human Comedy

December 2nd, 2019



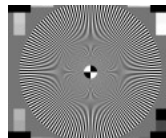
Catherine Panebianco: No Memory Is Ever Alone

November 25th, 2019



Bill O'Donnell: Solid and Space

November 23rd, 2019



Greece Week: Michael Almiroudis: Genius Seculi

November 15th, 2019



Greece Week: Katerina Tsakiri: A Simple Place

November 13th, 2019



ARCHIVES

Archives

Select Month

TRANSLATE

FOLLOW LENSSCRATCH