

MAGGIE TAYLOR:

SELECTIONS FROM ALMOST ALICE...AND MORE.

February 20 – April 3, 2010

Opening reception, February 20th (5 – 8 pm)

Joseph Bellows Gallery is pleased to present *MAGGIE TAYLOR: Selections from Almost Alice...and more*. The exhibition will feature selections from Taylor's newest series *Almost Alice* as well as other new work. It will be on view from February 20 – April 3, 2010. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, February 20th (5 – 8 pm).

Since 1996, after more than 10 years as a still-life photographer, digital artist Maggie Taylor has used a flatbed scanner instead of a traditional camera as her primary image-making tool. To begin her process, Taylor scours flea markets and the internet for antique photographs, toys and other objects, which she feels have a story to tell. Taylor then scans each element into her computer separately and begins to layer and arrange them along with her drawings and small digital photographs. Using a computer, Taylor is able to play with these layers the same way that she worked with objects in her studio for a still life photograph. Although her images are not traditional photographs, she thinks of her scanner as a light-sensitive recording device she uses to sample the world around her.

Taylor rarely photographs contemporary people, preferring instead nineteenth-century images of unknown people. She is drawn to the dream-like and mysterious aspects of their clothing and expressions as well as their likely attitude toward being photographed in that era – that a trip to a photographer's studio was an important occasion involving long exposure times, contraptions to help the subject hold still, and artificial backdrops representing nature and architecture.

After reading Lewis Carroll's classic story *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* for the first time in many years, Taylor decided to create a series of images to accompany the original text. The three-year project was completed in early 2008 and includes 45 images illustrating Taylor's interpretation of characters and episodes in the classic tale. Each of Taylor's Alices is a different Victorian girl; Alice as "every girl." Through the use of modern technology, Taylor is able to fuse a time-honored piece of literature with found images and her own imagination. The resulting images are in themselves an adventure in "Wonderland".

Maggie Taylor received her BA in philosophy from Yale University and her MFA in photography from the University of Florida. Her work is featured in *Adobe Photoshop Master Class: Maggie Taylor's Landscape of Dreams* (Peachpit Press, 2005), *Solutions Beginning with A* (Modernbook Editions, 2007), and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll (Modernbook Editions, 2008). Taylor's images are in numerous public

and private collections including Princeton University Art Museum, The Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and The Museum of Photography, Seoul. She lives in Gainesville, Florida.

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