

For Immediate Release: 01/18/17

Melissa Shook *Daily Self-Portraits*

February 18th – March 31st, 2017

Opening Reception with the artist

February 18th, 6 - 8 pm.



Daily Self-Portrait, April 3, 1973

Joseph Bellows Gallery is pleased to announce its upcoming solo exhibition, *Daily Self-Portraits* by Melissa Shook. The exhibition will open on February 18th and continue through March 31st, 2017. An opening reception will be held with the artist on Saturday, February 18th, from 6 - 8pm.

In 1972, curious about the problem of identity, Shook began an ambitious project of photographing herself everyday for a year. The sum of this impressive undertaking resulted in a compelling set of intimately scaled black and white photographs that range from the artist performing for the camera, to the camera describing the physicality of her being. These early influential photographs will be complimented with a selection of recent daily photographs from 2014-15 that combine individual text entries with a self-portrait image; both text and image act as a diary, reflecting upon the complexities of the human condition. Along with her daily portraits, the gallery will be exhibiting a collection of her extended portraits of her daughter Krissy in her teen years, and a compilation of her video pieces. The exhibition in its entirety explores notions of change and aging, as well as photography's ability to form an extended document to reveal these qualities.

A photographer, video artist, and writer, Melissa Shook has taught photography at the Creative Photography Lab, at MIT and at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Shook's photographs have been exhibited in numerous solo and prestigious group exhibitions, including: *Pictures by Women: A History of Modern Photography* (MOMA 2010) and *Photography in Boston 1955-1985* (Decordova Museum). Among her awards are a National Endowment for the Arts Visual Fellowship, an Arts in Action Grant and a Polaroid Foundation Grant.



Daily Self-Portrait, 7/12/15

Her photographs are in the collection of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Center for Creative Photography, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bibliotheque Nationale, Fotografiska Museet, Moderna Museet, among others.

To request further information or high resolution images please contact Joseph Bellows Gallery at info@josephbellows.com. Established in 1998, Joseph Bellows Gallery features rotating exhibitions of both historic and contemporary photography, with a special interest in American work from the 20th Century. Visit us at, www.josephbellows.com



Daily Self-Portrait, Jan. 1, 1973