



Lucas Foglia

A Natural Order

15 novembre → 28 décembre 2013

It's the 1980s, and young Lucas is growing up on a small farm in the state of New York. Gradually, the family home, which used to be isolated in the countryside, becomes encircled by a rapidly expanding city. This childhood on the perimeter is suddenly at the centre of a conflict between a life lived close to nature and city life. It provides the foundation for the photographic work of this Yale Art School graduate.

In 2006, Lucas Foglia started out in the south-eastern United States, on a project which would last four years. He lived with and photographed these voluntary Robinson Crusoes, men and women who had chosen to leave the towns and suburbs behind. They lived cut off from a society in which they did not recognize themselves, or which rejected them. Without refusing science and technological progress, they adopted other ways of subsisting, consuming and even educating themselves. As Lucas Foglia says, "They don't reject the modern world at all. It's more that they want to live apart from it and choose the bits they want to take with them".

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from Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 12.30 pm and from 1.30 pm to 7 pm

With this series “A Natural Order”, Lucas explores some of the basic American themes: rural life, the conquest of new territories, wandering and a form of civil disobedience. This testimony of refusal unites him with the great writers and even with the inventor of this way of thinking, Henry David Thoreau. Like the main character of Thoreau’s classic, *Walden: or, Life in the Woods*, the people who appear in Lucas Foglia’s photographs have decided to turn their backs on society and take parallel routes to avoid the crazy rat-race of contemporary life. Activities copied from the early inhabitants of the American plains and mountains, such as hunting with bows and arrows, contrast with the adoption of modern tools like the internet: these new “Huckleberry Finns” seem to navigate between the ecological thinking inherited from John Muir and retreat into a past identity, sometimes tinged with sectarianism.

This portrayal of a different territorial map is also part of a great American photographic tradition. From Berenice Abbott to William Eggleston, with Walker Evans in between, American photographers have never ceased giving their accounts of the differences and developments of a country which is impossible to encapsulate completely. By leaving the towns and suburbs behind to go into these no man’s lands, Lucas Foglia is continuing this work of putting the spotlight on people who are almost invisible to the public eye.

There are, however, thousands who live in yurts, wooden houses in the middle of forests or ancestral farms, feeding on the food that they can grow or hunt.

The power of Lucas Foglia’s photos resides in the respect with which he views these men and women, who often live in fantasy worlds, and come straight out of an American myth that is constantly renewed. He does not judge them but bears witness to their lives with humility and indulgence.

As part of the festival *Paris en toutes lettres*

reading of extracts from the journal of Henry David Thoreau by Jacques Bonnaffé

Sunday 17 November, 2pm at the galerie du jour

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