

Alec Soth:

An Inventory of His Photography Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Soth, Alec, 1969-
Title:	Alec Soth Photography Collection
Dates:	2011-2013
Extent:	45 items
Abstract:	The collection consists of 45 photographs by Alec Soth (American, born 1969), all but one of which were created for a pop-up exhibition at the Harry Ransom Center (December 7, 2013). Many of the photographs were later published in Soth's and writer Brad Zellar's (American, born 1961) <i>Texas Triangle</i> .
Call Number:	Photography Collection PH-02588
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Special permission from the Curator of Photography, plus advance notice, is required to view 2012:0004:0001. To make an appointment, please email Reading and Viewing Room staff . Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
Use Policies:	Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.
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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: Alec Soth Photography Collection (Photography Collection PH-02588). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

Acquisition: Purchases, 2012-2013 (12-02-008-P, 13-12-014-P)

Processed by: Elizabeth E. Preston, 2019

Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Biographical Sketch

American photographer Alec Soth was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1969. He graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in New York in 1992, and returned to Minneapolis. Soth's first book of photographs, *Sleeping by the Mississippi*, was published in 2004 and garnered critical acclaim. The 2004 Whitney Biennial included his work, and one of his photographs was featured in their poster. Soth has continued to publish photography books, been featured in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Fortune*, and *Newsweek*, and his works are included in several permanent museum collections. In 2008 Soth founded Little Brown Mushroom, an arts institution where photographers, writers and designers, collaborate to create and distribute visual stories in book, magazine, and newspaper formats. Soth has collaborated with writer Brad Zellar (American, born 1961) on several projects published by Little Brown Mushroom, including the *LBM Dispatch*, a series of individually titled and irregularly published newspapers.

Sources:

"Alec Soth," Artnet, accessed September 10, 2019,
<http://www.artnet.com/artists/alec-soth/biography>.

"Alec Soth," Magnum Photos Inc., accessed September 10, 2019,
<https://www.magnumphotos.com/photographer/alec-soth/>.

Little Brown Mushroom, accessed September 26, 2019,
<http://www.littlebrownmushroom.com/about/>.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of 45 photographs by Alec Soth resulting for two different projects, *Postcards from America* (2011) and *Texas Triangle* (2013). The prints are arranged by project and then by accession number.

Only one photograph, a color inkjet print (2012:0004:0001), represents the first project that was a collaborative project undertaken by Magnum photographers Paolo Pellegrin, Jim Goldberg, Susan Meiselas, Mikhael Subotzky and Soth, and writer Ginger Strand. It began with a two-week road trip from Austin, Texas, to Oakland, California, in May 2011, and resulted in part with the limited edition portfolio *Postcards from America*.

The rest of the photographs (2013:0011:0001-0044) were made during the Texas Triangle project. They are, or are comprised of, black and white inkjet prints. Soth took the photographs in November and December 2013 during a two-week exploration of the Texas Triangle, an area of central Texas bounded by the metro areas of San Antonio, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Houston-Galveston. During the trip, Soth travelled with writer Brad Zellar, and together they explored the people and places of the most populous areas of the region. The prints were made for a pop-up exhibition at the Ransom Center on December 7, 2013, but twelve (2013:0011:0033-0044) were not ultimately displayed. One of the photographs is a 2x2 tetraptych (2013:0011:0032a-0032d). All of the prints were later published with accompanying text by Zellar in *Texas Triangle*, the sixth issue of *LBM Dispatch*. *LBM Dispatch*, described by the artists as "an irregularly published newspaper of the North American ramblings of photographer Alec Soth and writer Brad Zellar," is published by Little Brown Mushroom, the arts institution Soth founded in 2008.

Related Material

The Harry Ransom Center holds additional works by Alec Soth in the following portfolios and collections: Magnum Photos, Inc., Photography Collection (PH-02276), *Postcards from America* (PH-02553), Postcards from America Photography Collection (PH-02395), *Six by Six* (PH-PH-02775), and *Texas Triangle* (PH-02950).

Index Terms

People

Soth, Alec, 1969- .

Zellar, Brad.

Subjects

Documentary photography.

Photography, Artistic.

Portrait photography.

Texas--Pictorial works.

Texas--Social life and customs--Pictorial works.

Places

Austin (Tex.).

College Station (Tex.).

Dallas (Tex.).

Galveston (Tex.).

Houston (Tex.).

San Antonio (Tex.).

Document Types

Inkjet prints.

Alec Soth Photography Collection 2011-2013

Postcards from America Project

Accession Number: 2012:0004:0001 Madjna and two sons, Oak Manor Apartments, San Antonio, 5/12/11, 2011. Color inkjet print, 55.7 x 38 cm (image); 65.7 x 50.4 cm (sheet). **Location** Flat File

Texas Triangle Project

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0001 Leslie. 37th Annual Margarita Society Ball. Dallas, 2013. Inkjet print, 135.5 x 101.5 cm (image); 147.5 x 111.8 cm (sheet). **Location** Flat File

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0002 Rosebud-Lott vs. Waskom. Class 2A-Division II high school football playoffs. South Lake, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.2 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.6 x 111.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0003 Texas City, "The town that would not die," 2013. Inkjet print, 76.2 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.7 x 111.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0004 John, aka Wolf. Mariachi Mass. Mission San Juan Church. San Antonio, 2013. Inkjet print, 38 x 50.8 cm (image); 44 x 56.5 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0005 TEEEX (Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service) law enforcement training facility. College Station, 2013. Inkjet print, 38 x 50.7 cm (image); 44 x 56.5 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0006 Mike. Cadillac dealership. Dallas, 2013. Inkjet print, 38 x 50.8 cm (image); 44 x 56.5 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0007 Fellowship Church. Grapevine, 2013. Inkjet print, 38 x 50.8 cm (image); 44 x 56.5 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0008 Kendall. Third Ward 49ers. Houston, 2013. Inkjet print, 38 x 50.8 cm (image); 43.8 x 56 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0009 Disaster City. College Station, 2013. Inkjet print, 38 x 50.8 cm (image); 43.8 x 56.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0010 Lady C and Big D. Trail Riders Association dance. Silver Eagle Club. Houston, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.2 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.6 x 111.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0011 Reveille VIII, Texas A&M mascot. College Station, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.2 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.8 x 111.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0012 Hearne, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.2 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.7 x 111.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0013 Rodeo Dance. Near San Antonio, 2013. Inkjet print, 134.6 x 100.9 cm (image); 153.8 x 111.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0014 Don. Hippie Hollow. Austin, 2013. Inkjet print, 50.8 x 38 cm (image); 55.8 x 43.3 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0015 Sculpture of Jack Johnson, carved out of the stump of a tree felled by Hurricane Ike. Galveston, 2013. Inkjet print, 38 x 50.8 cm (image); 44 x 56.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0016 Douglas. Beverly Hills, 2013. Inkjet print, 38.7 x 51.8 cm (image); 44.7 x 57.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0017 James and seven-month-old Mason. The Alamo. San Antonio, 2013. Inkjet print, 51.8 x 38.8 cm (image); 57.5 x 43.6 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0018 Kameron and Joseph. Houston, 2013. Inkjet print, 50.8 x 38 cm (image); 56.8 x 44 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0019 Waco Mammoth Site. Waco, 2013. Inkjet print, 38 x 50.7 cm (image); 44 x 56.6 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0020 McKenna. Corsicana Tumbling Academy. Corsicana, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.2 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.8 x 111.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0021 Austin, 2013. Inkjet print, 72.2 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.7 x 111.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0022 Execution of Jerry Martin. Huntsville Prison, Walls Unit. Huntsville, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.3 x 101.8 cm (image); 101.8 x 111.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0023 Pastor Dinah. Shekinah Temple Spirit of Truth Ministries. Hutchins, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.2 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.8 x 111.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0024 Lee Harvey Oswald's grave. Shannon Rose Hill Memorial Burial Park. Fort Worth, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.3 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.8 x 111.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0025 Robert E. "Bob " Wiatt Physical Skills Training Complex. Riverside Campus, Texas A&M. College Station, 2013. Inkjet print, 69.9 x 57.3 cm.

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0026 Faith. Confederate Reunion Grounds. Mexia, 2013. Inkjet print, 135.5 x 101.5 cm (image); 147.3 x 111.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0027 Jimmy. Dealey Plaza. Dallas. 50th anniversary of the J.F.K. assassination, 2013. Inkjet print, 135.4 x 101.6 cm (image); 147.2 x 111.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0028 Ronald. South Lake, 2013. Inkjet print, 135.5 x 101.6 cm (image); 147.2 x 111.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0029 Christina. Shepperd Mullens Correctional Visitation Center. Waco, 2013. Inkjet print, 135.8 x 101.6 cm (image); 147.4 x 111.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0030 Red Bull Gift Shop. Crawford, 2013. Inkjet print, 135.5 x 101.6 cm (image); 147.2 x 111.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0031 Kristi. 37th Annual Margarita Society Ball. Dallas, 2013. Inkjet print, 135.5 x 101.6 cm (image); 147.1 x 111.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0032 Cory and Justin. Bull riders. San Antonio, 2013.

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0032a [Top left panel of tetraptych]. Inkjet print, 101.3 x 134.2 cm (image); 106.4 x 141.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0032b [Top right panel of tetraptych]. Inkjet print, 101.5 x 134.6 cm (image); 106.6 x 140.9 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0032c [Bottom left panel of tetraptych]. Inkjet print, 101.3 x 134.5 cm (image); 106.4 x 140.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0032d [Bottom right panel of tetraptych]. Inkjet print, 101.5 x 134.5 cm (image); 106.5 x 140.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0033 Ronald. South Lake, 2013. Inkjet print, 135.4 x 101.6 cm (image); 147.1 x 111.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0034 Audie Murphy Cooper. College Station, 2013. Inkjet print, 135.6 x 101.5 cm (image); 147.4 x 111.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0035 Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen. Black Friday. Houston, 2013. Inkjet print, 38 x 50.8 cm (image); 45.9 x 61 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0036 Best Buy. Thanksgiving. Houston, 2013. Inkjet print, 38 x 50.8 cm (image); 46.1 x 61 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0037 Rodeo Dance. Near San Antonio, 2013. Inkjet print, 50.8 x 38 cm (image); 61 x 45.5 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0038 Xavy, two years old. Galveston, 2013. Inkjet print, 38 x 50.8 cm (image); 45.9 x 61 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0039 Don. Hippie Hollow. Austin. *Texas Triangle*, 2013. Inkjet print, 50.8 x 38 cm (image); 56.7 x 42.3 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0040 Execution of Jerry Martin. Huntsville Prison, Walls Unit. Huntsville, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.3 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.7 x 111.8 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0041 Cory and Justin. Bull riders. San Antonio, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.2 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.7 x 111.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0042 Cory and Justin. Bull riders. San Antonio, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.3 x 101.5 cm (image); 101.8 x 111.7 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0043 Reunion Tower. Dallas, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.2 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.8 x 101.5 cm (sheet).

Accession Number: 2013:0011:0044 Lady C and Big D. Trail Riders Association dance. Silver Eagle Club. Houston, 2013. Inkjet print, 76.2 x 101.5 cm (image); 88.8 x 111.7 cm (sheet).