



Silver Eye Center for Photography
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Aaronel deRoy Gruber Retrospective Now at Silver Eye

(Pittsburgh, PA) Silver Eye Center for Photography proudly presents ***The Analytical Eye: Photographs by Aaronel deRoy Gruber*** on view March 18 – June 27, 2009. Silver Eye pays tribute to one of Pittsburgh's most prolific artists, Aaronel deRoy Gruber, with a retrospective exhibition featuring over 50 photographs. Gruber, who recently turned 90, is still actively creating fine art photography. Her tireless effort and inspiring images that range from picturesque panoramas of landscapes to industrial views of steel mills can be found in museum and corporate art collections throughout the country. **Prints are available for purchase.** Silver Eye Center for Photography, 1015 East Carson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203. **Gallery Hours:** Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: Noon – 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 412.431.1810, www.silvereye.org

The **Opening Reception** will take place on Saturday, March 21, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Come meet the artist and celebrate her achievements. Refreshments will be served. Members and students: free; Non-members: \$5.00. 1015 East Carson Street, South Side.

The Analytical Eye: Photographs by Aaronel deRoy Gruber is an exhibition of photographs selected from the artist's collection, Photo Forum Gallery and The Carnegie Museum of Art. The exhibition Co-Curators are Linda Benedict-Jones, Curator of Photography at The Carnegie Museum of Art, and Graham Shearing, Arts Writer and Critic. Graham Shearing explains, "We have re-shuffled the pack and dealt the cards differently for this retrospective. And now we can view this particular artistic life as a panorama itself, strikingly consistent and incisive...an essentially analytical eye."

Celebrated for her artistic vision, Aaronel deRoy Gruber employs photographic processes that range from traditional methods to the latest in digital technology. She is well known for utilizing unique techniques such as infrared photography and many of her prints are chemically toned and hand-painted. The infrared film and digital filters (sensitive to infrared radiation) produce an ethereal quality often identifiable by foliage that appears white and rose-hued skies. Gruber often chooses the panoramic format and experiments with different cameras and printing methods. Among her favorite cameras are the Widelux, a swing lens, panoramic film camera, and an Olympus 2020, a digital camera, somewhat outdated today, but with it she can achieve some of her best-known effects most efficiently. Her studio practice involves assistants, notably John Fobes and Dan Mohan, both local professional photographers in their own right.

The spirit of invention that informs her work is drawn from her academic training at Carnegie Institute of Technology where she graduated in 1940. For many years she worked as a painter and sculptor in steel and Plexiglas before focusing most of her artistic energy on camera made images. In the 1980s, Gruber's son Terry deRoy Gruber, a professional photographer in New York, encouraged his mother to return to photography as a serious subject. Undaunted by new technologies, Gruber frequently experiments with both format and

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process as she captures vestiges of the region's steelmaking might, the exterior of Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain, the deserts of Syria, the formal gardens of Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh and the largest Ferris wheel in Europe, the London Eye.

This exhibition launches simultaneously with the premier of a new documentary film, ***Aaronel deRoy Gruber—A Life in Art***, at the Carnegie Museum of Art on Thursday, March 26, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Filmmaker Kenneth Love celebrates the life and art of Aaronel deRoy Gruber through exclusive interviews with family members, friends, and art experts. Love is widely known in Western Pennsylvania for his biographical films of Charles "Teenie" Harris, W. Eugene Smith, and others.

Throughout the Western Pennsylvania region, many people are familiar with the photographic images of Aaronel deRoy Gruber as they have been widely published and exhibited. Perhaps we know her best of all for a single photograph looking down on a panorama of Pittsburgh, *Downtown Pittsburgh Skyscrapers from Mount Washington* lent to this exhibition by the Carnegie Museum of Art.

Co-Curator, Linda Benedict-Jones, explains, "Each time a new body of work is on display, we collectively discover another approach, an asymmetrical view, an unanticipated and unusual blending of content and form." To date, however, there has never been a retrospective of her photographic accomplishments. Perhaps because she is such a dedicated and disciplined artist, and so focused on the present, her exhibitions have always been related to one theme, or one topic. Silver Eye is proud to present an overview of Gruber's work as it has taken shape over time. This retrospective presents gathered photographs from both her past and present that show her editorial eye, her visually analytical way of assembling information within a photographic frame. The Co-Curators hope to share Gruber's work in a truly fresh way that reveals more than just the beauty of her prints. This exhibition demonstrates the importance of dedicated "seeing" and "looking" that results, over time, in a consistent and identifiable vision. In the case of Aaronel deRoy Gruber, her vision is informed by both art and science as she draws from the wealth of accumulated creative experiences she has encountered over many decades with seemingly disparate materials including forged metals, shaped kinetic Plexiglas, and infrared photographic film.

Artist Biography

Aaronel deRoy Gruber, a Pittsburgh native (born 1918), has distinguished herself both nationally and in the Pittsburgh art community for almost seven decades. Gruber's numerous national and international exhibitions include: The Frick Art Museum, Pittsburgh, PA (2003); Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH (2002); Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, *Pittsburgh Biennial* (1994); Pittsburgh Center for the Arts - Artist of the Year (1981); The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA (1997); Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC (1972); De Cordova Museum, Lincoln, MA (1973); and International Women in Photography Exhibition (1989-1991). Her more than 30 solo exhibitions include: Anita Shapolsky Gallery, NYC; Galeria Juana Morda, Madrid, Spain; and Galleria 88, Rome, Italy. Her work is included in more than 800 public and private collections including: Butler Institute of American Art, Bayer Corporation, Chase Manhattan Bank, City of Pittsburgh, The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Carnegie Museum of Art, The Frick Art Museum, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC and the Kawamura Memorial Museum of Art, Chiba, Japan.

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To request an interview with Aaronel deRoy Gruber, the Curators or a CD with high-res images, please call Amanda Bloomfield at 412-431-1810, ext. 12 or email her at abloomfield@silvereye.org.

The exhibition is complemented by several upcoming public programs, including: **Female Focus: Two-Session Photography Workshop with Annie O'Neill** on Wednesdays, March 25 and April 1, 7:00 p.m., **Aaronel deRoy Gruber—A Life in Art, Premiere Screening at the Carnegie Museum of Art** on Thursday, March 26, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., and **All About Digital Infrared with John Fobes** on Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 p.m.

This exhibition is made possible by a generous grant from The Pittsburgh Foundation. Broadcast media sponsorship is kindly provided by WYEP/91.3 FM.

Silver Eye Center for Photography is generously supported by the Allegheny Regional Asset District, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Grable Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, The A.W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust of The Pittsburgh Foundation, an anonymous donor, other local foundations and corporations, and our members.

The mission of Silver Eye Center for Photography is to serve the public through exposure to a wide range of work by locally, nationally and internationally recognized photographers. A Pittsburgh institution since 1985, Silver Eye Center for Photography is the oldest non-profit organization in Western Pennsylvania dedicated solely to the understanding, appreciation, education, and promotion of photography as an art form and as an expressive form of visual communication.

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Or by appointment
Admission is free.

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