

The PHOTOGRAPHERS Lecture Series
Moderator: Philip S. Block
October 19, 2011

Jason Lazarus

Jason Lazarus is an artist who lives and works in Chicago, Illinois. His burgeoning career explores the various uses of the photograph as a fine art item, an icon of popular culture, and a means of capturing personal narratives and memories. Lazarus' multifaceted practice encompasses his photographs and photograms as well as conceptual projects using found and solicited photographic works and texts of others. His installations often include these appropriated images. He currently has a solo exhibition of his photograms in a show titled *Jason Lazarus: Gone* at the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena, California. This show includes his *Heinecken Studies*, a series of photograms created using the ashes of the artist Robert Heinecken. Additionally, the show exhibits images from the *Orion Over Baghdad Series*, a sequence of photograms that consist solely of snapshot titles Lazarus appropriated from the Flickr accounts of U.S. soldiers in Iraq. While much of his artistic practices directly use the photographic medium in some way, he recently created *The Search*, a performative space installation exploring personal intimacies within the construct of the larger world. This ziggurat-like structure internally housed conversations from specifically chosen pairs of Chicago-based professionals. *The Search* was on view at Andrew Rafacz Gallery from September 9, 2011 through October 15, 2011.

"Lazarus' work examines the nature of photography, past and present, implicitly asking viewers to assess the reach of photography within their own lives. Lazarus uses his lens and the lenses of others to unite the genres of documentary and vernacular street photography with the fanaticism of celebrity worship. In doing so, he heightens our awareness of where photography stands as a fine arts tool, a cultural symbol, and mnemonic device." –Press Release for *Your Time Is Gonna Come*, University Galleries of Illinois State University.

Jason Lazarus received his BS in Marketing from DePaul University in 1998. He received his MFA in Photography from Columbia College in 2003. Since receiving his MFA, Lazarus has lectured and exhibited widely. His solo retrospective, *Your Time Is Gonna Come*, exhibited at The University Galleries of Illinois State University in the Spring of 2011. He is gearing up for another solo exhibition at the Nerman Museum in Overland Park, Kansas in 2012. Other exhibition highlights include: *Black Is, Black Ain't* at the Renaissance Society of Chicago, *On the Scene: Jason Lazarus, Wolfgang Ploger, Zoe Strauss* at the Art Institute of Chicago, and several solo exhibitions at Andrew Rafacz Gallery. His work resides in the collections of The Art Institute of Chicago, Milwaukee Museum of Art, Bank of America, The Capital Group, College of DuPage, and Spertus Institute, among others. He has been the recipient of multiple notable awards, among which are The Illinois Arts Council Fellowship, Richard H Driehaus Foundation-Emerging Artist Award, and the Artadia Grant Award. He teaches at Columbia College and the Art Institute of Chicago. Jason Lazarus is represented by Andrew Rafacz Gallery.

LMc