

The PHOTOGRAPHERS Lecture Series
Moderator: Phillip S. Block
November 9, 2011

Jerry Spagnoli

Jerry Spagnoli lives and works in New York City. Evident in Spagnoli's vast body of work is his belief that technical choices and the camera are just as important as the pictorial considerations. His work ranges from daguerreotypes to abstract enlargements of negatives to wide-angle color photographs using digital post-processing. Spagnoli is currently working on two ongoing historical documentation projects, "Local Stories" and "The Last Great Daguerreian Survey of the Twentieth Century." "Local Stories" covers a range of locations and serves as a historical document of expansive everyday scenes. The images in "The Last Great Daguerreian Survey of the Twentieth Century" are historical documents meant to express the photographer's impression of a current event. This series is intended to be viewed by audiences of the future.

In order for the viewer and the maker to be fully engaged with the work there has to be a complete, symmetrical relationship between the image made and the means chosen to make it. A photograph can be read by examining all of the elements that brought it into being. The choices an artist makes- whether to use black and white or color film, a large format or a 35mm camera, film or digital output- all create resonances in the finished image. Historical and social references are built into these materials and important subliminal reactions are triggered in the audience by them. Making casual choices about these things is to make images with one eye blind.-Jerry Spagnoli from "How the World Looks", a presentation at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Spagnoli received his BFA in Photography from The San Francisco Art Institute, and his MFA from Mills College in Oakland, California. He has been a helpful collaborator to several artists in their daguerreotype work, including both Chuck Close and Adam Fuss. His collaborations with Chuck Close resulted in two monographs, "A Couple of Ways of Doing Something" and "Daguerreotypes." Spagnoli has had several solo exhibitions, including shows at The Edwynn Houk Gallery in New York City, The Benham Gallery in Seattle, Washington, and The Imperial Calcasieu Museum in Lake Charles, Louisiana. His work has been exhibited internationally in many group shows, including shows at Dali International Photo Exhibition in Dali, China, Gallery 339 in Philadelphia, PA, Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, PA, among many others. His work has appeared in multiple books and publications, including "Watching the World Change", by David Friend, "Photography's Antiquarian Avant Garde" by Lyle Rexer, "21st: A Journal of Contemporary Photography Volume VI: Flesh and Spirit", and *Vanity Fair*. His work is in the collections of The High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA, The National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, The Fogg Museum in Boston, MA, The Museum of Modern Art in New York, NY, The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, NY, The New York Historical Society, Musee Carnavalet in Paris, France, among other major collections. Spagnoli has two monographs of his work. "Daguerreotypes" was published by Steidl in 2006, and his next book "American Dreaming" will be out this year.