

Felix Gonzalez-Torres: snapshots

This exhibition presents the snapshots that artist Felix Gonzalez-Torres sent to friends and colleagues. Taken with a simple 35-millimeter camera, the images range from humorous tableaux created with the toys he collected to evocative scenes such as depictions of birds flying among the clouds, which relate to his artwork. Gonzalez-Torres often wrote personal notes, poems, or other musings on the back of these photographs. These writings offer insight into an artist who blurred the distinctions between private life and the public realm in his work. The texts on view are photographic copies of the backs of the snapshots. Included in the exhibition is a selection of works by Gonzalez-Torres from the Marieluise Hessel Collection on permanent loan to the Center for Curatorial Studies. The inclusion of these works provides a context for Gonzalez-Torres's writings and suggests connections between his casual picture taking and his art.

Gonzalez-Torres was born in Guaimaro, Cuba, in 1957. He was raised in Puerto Rico and lived in New York until his death in 1996. One of the most influential artists of his generation, Gonzalez-Torres used everyday materials in his work to speak of love, loss, and memory. Rather than monumental gestures, Gonzalez-Torres's art is characterized by a modest and poetic sensibility that values the ephemeral, the personal, and the suggestive.

The following people lent their snapshots to this display:

Doug Ashford
 Julie Ault
 Susan Cahan
 Amada Cruz
 Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz
 David Deitcher
 Russell Ferguson
 Ann Goldstein and Chris Williams
 Tim Hailand
 Michael Jenkins
 Private Collection

This exhibition is made possible by Carlos and Rosa de la Cruz.



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Works of art in the exhibition:

Untitled

1992

Gelatin silver print with pencil, edition 2/3
Marieluise Hessel Collection on permanent
loan to the Center for Curatorial Studies

Untitled (Alice B. Toklas & Gertrude Stein's Grave)

1992

C-print, edition 4/4
Marieluise Hessel Collection on permanent
loan to the Center for Curatorial Studies

Untitled (Love Letter)

1992

C-print
Marieluise Hessel Collection on permanent
loan to the Center for Curatorial Studies

Untitled (A Walk in the Snow)

1993

Color photograph, unique
Marieluise Hessel Collection on permanent
loan to the Center for Curatorial Studies

Untitled (Sand)

1993-1994

Photogravures on Somerset Satin,
edition of 12 with 6 artist's proofs
Marieluise Hessel Collection on permanent
loan to the Center for Curatorial Studies