

Advance Information

Slippages

Photographs by Linda Cummings

edited by Kathy Battista. Introduction by Linda Cummings

Texts by Nancy Princenthal, Kathy Battista, Elise Morrison and Emna Zghal

The images of the decade-long performance based photographic project by Linda Cummings.

Slippages is a landmark publication of photographs by American artist Linda Cummings. The book showcases over 60 high-quality duotone images spanning the decade from 1992 to 2003 and the last vestiges of analog photography. Cummings' compositions toss expectation to the wind, transposing gender dynamics with a sleight of hand. The images convey Cummings' innovative approach to photographic narrative through actions performed and photographed by the artist on-site, in locations as varied as steel mills, coal mines, churches, hospitals and stadiums, many long since disappeared. The photographs express the artist's defiance, exuberance and anxiety amidst the upheavals of a declining industrial age and dawning of the digital era.

Cummings' thought-provoking photographs are complemented with an introduction and four essays that extrapolate ideas from Cummings's photographs and consider how social controversies of the last decade of the 20th century resurface today as the rights of bodily autonomy and gender identity continue to be challenged.

- The book presents Linda Cummings' unique approach to photography and performance art.
- Cummings' evocative compositions challenge gender norms and societal expectations, providing an original exploration of identity, defiance, and the cultural tensions of the late 20th century.
- All the photographs were taken on-site with an analog 35-mm manual film camera and printed by hand in a darkroom, with no manipulation post-capture.

Linda Cummings's photography explores perceptions of self, the power of place and the reciprocal relationship between the body and natural phenomena: light, wind, water and gravity. Her performance-based *Slippages* project is a significant contribution to feminist photography and is in the collection of major museums in the US, including the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art, Washington; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Lehigh University Art Gallery, Bethlehem, PA; Smith College Art Museum, Amherst, MA. **Kathy Battista** is a writer, curator, and teacher. She is author of *Renegotiating the Body: Feminist Art in 1970s London* and *New York New Wave: The Legacy of Feminist Art in Emerging Practice* (2012 & 2019 Bloomsbury) and is co-editor of *Creative Legacies, Artist Estates and Foundations* (2020 Lund Humphries). She also publishes regularly in academic journals and artist catalogues. Battista founded a MA program in Contemporary Art for Sotheby's Institute of Art NY and has taught in England, the US, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, and China.



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