

Aspen Art Museum
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Educator Notes



Installation view: *Anne Collier*, 2015. Photos: Tony Prikryl

Anne Collier

April 10–July 5, 2015

About the artist

Anne Collier was born in 1970 in Los Angeles, and currently lives and works in New York. She earned a BFA from the California Institute of the Arts and an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles. She is known for a photographic practice that places familiar, popular objects in a studio setting so that they can be re-examined. Collier's work raises questions of value and worth, popular culture, and feminism as they relate to the act of looking and seeing through photography.

"I'm interested in our collective relationships with images, but also how we then use them to create more personal, idiosyncratic narratives for ourselves."

—Anne Collier



Installation view: *Anne Collier*, 2015. Photos: Tony Prikryl

About the exhibition

The exhibition, *Anne Collier*, is the first museum survey of New York–based photographer Anne Collier. The exhibition traces Collier’s career from 2002 to the present, examining integral themes within her practice, including the conventions of commercial photography and pop psychology.

Turning her lens on images already present in popular culture, Collier considers the integral role photography and image-making play within contemporary society. The exhibition

includes a selection of works that represent her interest in photographing books, record albums, cassette tapes, calendars, magazines, and film stills. These objects are photographed in the artist’s studio through careful lighting, staging, and framing. Collier’s cool, matter-of-fact, large-scale color prints bring the viewer in direct contact with the popular material that interests the artist.

Anne Collier created the 2014–15 Aspen Art Museum/Aspen Skiing Company lift ticket collaboration.



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Questions for discussion

- | Why do you think the artist chose these objects to photograph?
- | How would your experience of these images be different if the original objects were photographed in a different setting?
- | Do you think these images tell us something about the artist? Do they tell us something about ourselves?

Suggested activities

Picture of a Picture

- | Ask students: Have you ever taken a picture of a picture? In many of Anne Collier's artworks, she is photographing images that already exist as photographs.
- | Next, invite students to collect an object from their home that has a special meaning to them.
- | Create a studio, using a large piece of white paper or cloth as the backdrop and a sturdy light source. With a camera on a tripod, carefully photograph each student's object, taking care that the object is precisely in the middle of the composition. Print the photographs on the largest size paper possible.
- | Students can also make frames for their photographs, matching the frame color to the backdrop for a final result that relates to Anne Collier's white-framed photographs.
- | As a final reflection, students can arrange their photographs together, discussing, as a group, which photographs should be next to one another and why.

For more information, please contact the Education Department at 970.925.8050 ext. 133 or email education@aspenartmuseum.org.

Anne Collier is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. This exhibition is overseen in Aspen by Heidi Zuckerman, Nancy and Bob Magoon CEO and Director. AAM exhibitions are made possible by the Marx Exhibition Fund. General exhibition support is provided by the Toby Devan Lewis Visiting Artist Fund. Additional support is provided by the AAM National Council. AAM education programs are made possible by the Questrom Education Fund.