

Artist Statement

Julianna Foster

Foster's most recent work, *Swell*, depicts a fantastic event that allegedly occurred last year in a small coastal town. As the story goes, a nor'easter was forming in the Atlantic Ocean from the remnants of a Hurricane when several residents reported seeing something they had never witnessed before—and have never seen since.

Like *Kirkwood*, Foster's previous series of images that explored a similarly unexplained phenomenon that took place in that small suburban community, *Swell* operates on several levels to recount the stories of what happened through a series of photographs.

The series *Kirkwood*, depicts fantastic scenarios that occur in everyday settings. Unlike much of her past work, the human figure is absent in these images. But traces of its existence can be found in the vacant domestic architecture and in the events that take place within it. Tapping into the tradition of magical realism, these images depict the "unreal" in an utterly realistic manner. Foster began exploring these ideas in a previous series of work, *From Morning On*, which took its inspiration from the Russian filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky and was exhibited at Vox Populi in Philadelphia in 2009.

Previous work represents distinct narratives; which are informed for the most part by Foster's interest in cinema and its relationship to photography. The images reflect an ongoing investigation into the ways that the photographic image can portray a psychological relationship between the characters in each image or series of images and of course between the viewer and the subject. By exploring how the individual image can transcend its own limits, and by association, provide the opportunity for a pictorial narrative to unfold each story forms something of a larger narrative that continues to reveal itself in a variety of forms, be it a photograph, book or video. All of which rely on the fundamentals of narrative to examine and comment on the human experience.

Bio

Julianna Foster lives in Philadelphia and teaches at The University of the Arts, Photography Program and MFA Book Arts and Printmaking Department, where she received her MFA in 2006. Foster has been an artist member of Vox Populi Gallery in Philadelphia since 2006, where she has had four solo exhibitions, including *From Morning On*, *Kirkwood* and most recently *Swell* in 2012. She has also participated in group exhibitions in London and NYC. In addition to her individual ventures, over the years she has collaborated with various artists on projects that include creating artist multiples, artist books and series of photographs. Foster received a Faculty Professional Development Grant from the Pre-College Programs to attend classes at International Center for Photography and was a recipient of the Faculty Enrichment grant awards in 2010 and 2012.

Exhibitions in Philadelphia include, Philadelphia Art Alliance, Painted Bride Art Center and Rosenwald Wolf Gallery. Other exhibitions include, PhotoSynthesis, Pennsylvania College of Art and Design; NewSpace Center for Photography, Portland, Oregon; Bulk, Hanes Fine Art Center, Chapel Hill, NC; Landing Place, Manifesta 8, Murcia, Spain and X-Initiative, No Sale for Sale, A festival for Independents, London and NYC.

