

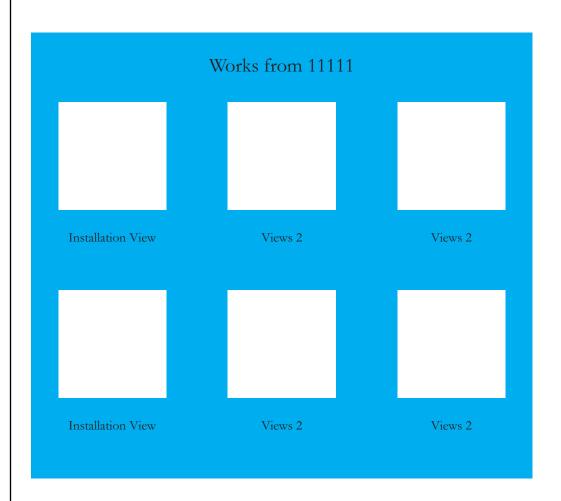
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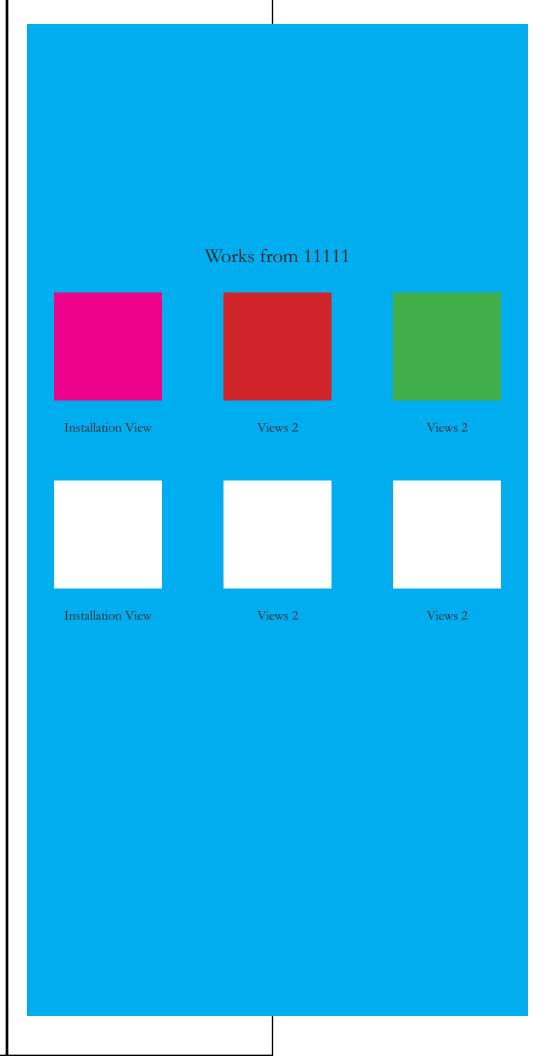
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Introduction

INNOCENCE PROJECT

Click the link to read about the Innocence Project http://www.innocenceproject.org/

The Innocence Project is a national litigation and public polict organization dedicated to oxonerating wrongfully convicted individuals through DNA testing and reforming the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice.

The Innocents documents the stories of individuals who served time in prison for violent crimes they did not commit. At issue is the question of photography's function as a credible eyewitness and arbiter of justice.

The primary cause of wrongful conviction is mistaken identification. A victim or eyewitness identifies a suspected perpetrator through law enforcement's use of photographs and lineups. This procedure relies on the assumption of precise visual memory. But, through exposure to composite sketches, mugshots, Polaroids, and lineups, eyewitness memory can change. In the history of these cases, photography offered the criminal justice system a tool that transformed innocent citizens into criminals. Photographs assisted officers in obtaining eyewitness identifications and aided prosecutors in securing convictions.

Taryn Simon

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Charles Irvin Fain Scene of the crime, the snake River, Melba, Idaho Served 18 years of a death sentence for Kidnapping, Rape and murder, 2002

Chromogenic print, 48 x 60 inches (121.9 x 152.4 cm), Edition of 5
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TARYN SIMON HOME / WORKS / ABOUT ME / CONTACT / THE ACCUSED Charles Irvin Fain Incident Date: 2/24/82 Exoneration Date: 8/23/01 Jurisdiction: ID Sentence Served: 17.5 Years Charge: Murder, Rape, Kidnapping Real perpetrator found? Not Yet Contributing Causes: Informants, Unvalidated or Improper Forensic Science Sentence: Death Compensation? Not Yet Charles Irvin Fain was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder, rape, and kidnapping of a young girl. The crime occurred in Nampa, Idaho, in 1982. Fain has always maintained his innocence and DNA testing in 2001 revealed the truth of his claim. INNOCENCE PROJECT © Taryn Simon To receive emails regarding upcoming shows and publications sign up here.

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