

For Immediate Release:

February 8– March 3, 2012

Winners of Soho Photo's 2012 Small Works National Competition

**Guest exhibition: Aperture Foundation's The Art of Small Books...plus
Soho Photo Members' Small Works Exhibition**



Papier Trois © Pat Beary. First place winner

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 6-8 PM

Gallery Hours: Wednesdays - Sundays, 1-6 PM, and by appointment

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New York, N.Y. – Soho Photo Gallery is honored to present the winners of its second **Small Works National Competition**, as chosen by our distinguished juror, Karen Marks, Exhibitions Director of The Howard Greenberg Gallery in New York City. We initiated this competition to recognize those photographers who still enjoy the discipline of creating small masterpieces in an era when large photographs—very large—are in vogue. The competition's rules stated that the height and width of entries could not exceed six inches in each direction. After viewing more than 600 images submitted by 94 photographers from across the country, Karen Marks said:

The jurying process for this show was not easy because there were so many wonderful images. It was very hard to choose among them. Usually, being quite decisive, I know what kind of work moves me. But I was surprisingly affected by some of these entries that are different from the ones I would ordinarily select. These artists have shown me that even when I think I know what I like, I can find something new.

Marks chose 141 images from 61 photographers to be in the Small Works exhibition.

The art of small books – Aperture Foundation (Guest exhibition)

The art of making small books frequently begins with an act of diplomacy: that of convincing the artist involved that small can be beautiful, too. While there is much to be gained from the trade-off of the larger reproduction size possible in the pages of an over-sized book for smaller scale presentation, photographers who are accustomed to working with large-sized prints can be especially loathe to give up on scale as a way of presenting their work. The traditional publishing logic about smaller size books has tended to revolve around practicality and affordability -- the Aperture Masters of Photography series, for example, originally created in the 1970s in collaboration with the French publisher Robert Delpire, was intended as an affordable means of bringing photography to the masses. When we embarked on Midwest Photographers Publication Project, a series of books intending to introduce emerging photographers from the Midwest to a larger audience, we borrowed that format as a nod to that original intention.

Increasingly, of course, with photographers oriented less toward giant-sized prints and more toward the book as the final form for their work, there seems to be a further interest in keeping things small for both practical reasons as well as for conceptual reason. Several of the books included in this show take their form as a result of the artist coming to the table with a concept or an idea that hinges on the ability for the the finished work to "pass" or at least refer to something other than your typical coffee table book: [Christian Marclay's Shuffle, which takes on the guise of a deck of cards](#); [Takashi Homma's Tokyo, which gives a nod in its form to the Penguin Classic pocket-size novel](#); [Stanley Greene's Black Passport, with its rounded corners and reference to the classic travel document](#). Even [Martin and Munoz's traveler's is kept within reason of typical snow globe scale](#). Most especially, what is to be gained from the smaller size book is the intimacy that comes from the journal-sized format, which carries with it reference to both the personal diary and the classic literary form of a novel or a collection of short stories intended to be read or interacted with by the reader, not simply viewed and put on display.

- Lesley A. Martin
Publisher, Books
Aperture Foundation

Soho Photo Members' Small Works Exhibition

Fifteen gallery members present a variety of images no larger than six by six inches that demonstrate the creative possibilities of thinking small.

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Soho Photo Gallery has been showcasing a broad spectrum of imagery by emerging and veteran photographers since 1971. The Gallery is in New York's historic TriBeCa district, three blocks south of Canal Street between West Broadway and Sixth Avenue. Subways: #1 to Franklin Street or the A, C, E, W, N, R or #6 to Canal Street.