




Photo-Transformation

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| Artist: | Lucas Samaras (American (born Greece), Kastoria, 1936) |
| Date: | November 30, 1973 |
| Medium: | Instant color print |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Dimensions: | 7.5 x 7.5 cm (2 15/16 x 2 15/16 in.) |
| Classification: | Photographs |
| Credit Line: | Gift of Arnold and Milly Glimcher, 1986 |
| Accession Number: | 1986.1244.1 |
| Rights and Reproduction: | © Lucas Samaras |

 Not on view

Samaras was already well known as a sculptor, painter, and performance artist when he began experimenting with photography in 1969. Working with a Polaroid camera, he created hundreds of lush, idiosyncratic images of his favorite subject: himself. In his Photo-Transformations series of 1973-76, Samaras extended the formal possibilities of the Polaroid by using his hand or a stylus to gouge, smear, and stipple the wet dye emulsions of the instant prints while they were developing. Here, the artist seems to dissolve into a watery reflection while his fist threatens to punch through the picture plane into the viewer's space.

Signatures, Inscriptions, and Markings

Inscription: Label affixed to verso of frame backboard, UC: "THE PACE GALLERY// 32 EAST 57TH STREET/NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022" [printed]; "#5626// Samaras" [typed]; 'Photo-Transformation, [underlined] 11/30/73// SX-70 Polaroid// 3 x 3" [typed].

Provenance

Arnold and Milly Glimcher

Exhibition History

The Pace Gallery, New York. "Lucas Samaras Photo-Transformations," March 23, 1974–April 27, 1974.

The Art Galleries, California State University, Long Beach. "Lucas Samaras Photo-Transformations," November 17, 1975–December 14, 1975.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art. "Invention and Continuity in Contemporary Photographs," June 13, 1989–October 8, 1989.

Whitney Museum of American Art. "Unrepentant Ego: The Self-Portraits of Lucas Samaras," November 20, 2003–February 15, 2004.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art. "Surface Tension," September 15, 2009–March 15, 2010.

New York. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. "Lucas Samaras: Offerings from a Restless Soul," February 24–September 7, 2014, no catalogue.

References

Prather, Marla. . New York: Whitney Museum of American Art, 2003. p. 163.

Notes

Image taken 11/30/73.

Timeline of Art History

Timelines

The United States and Canada, 1900 A.D.-present

Department

Photographs (36,803)

Artist / Maker / Culture

Lucas Samaras (76)

Object Type / Material

Instant prints (2,656)

Photographs (47,646)

Geographic Location

North and Central America (90,963)

United States (86,730)

Date / Era

A.D. 1900–present (117,262)

Related Objects

Photo-Transformation

Artist: Lucas Samaras (American (born Greece), Kastoria, 1936)

Date: February 14, 1974

Medium: Instant color print

Accession: 1981.1025

On view in: Not on view

Panorama

Artist: Lucas Samaras (American (born Greece), Kastoria, 1936)

Date: March 16, 1983

Medium: Instant color print

Accession: 1986.1244.7

On view in: Not on view

[Male Nude with Elongated Back]

Artist: Lucas Samaras (American (born Greece), Kastoria, 1936)

Date: 1983

Medium: Instant color print

Accession: 1986.1244.5

On view in: Not on view

Photo-Transformation

Artist: Lucas Samaras (American (born Greece), Kastoria, 1936)

Date: July 23, 1976

Medium: Instant color print

Accession: 1986.1244.4

On view in: Not on view

Photo-Transformation

Artist: Lucas Samaras (American (born Greece), Kastoria, 1936)

Date: July 16, 1976

Medium: Instant color print

Accession: 1986.1244.3

On view in: Not on view

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