

PRESS RELEASE

Minneapolis Institute of Art to Present Photography by Meadow Muska



Meadow Muska,
American, born 1952
*Tradeswomen: Get
Serious!*, 1976 Pigment
inkjet print courtesy of
the Artist. © Meadow
Muska

Minneapolis Institute of Art
2400 Third Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
artsmia.org

MINNEAPOLIS—July 24, 2019—A new exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) is the first to present the work of documentary photographer Carolyn “Meadow” Muska (born 1952). Muska’s work celebrates everyday life within American lesbian communities in the 1970s and 1980s, a time of persistent legal and cultural prejudice against LGBTQ individuals in the United States. “Strong Women, Full of Love” is on view August 17 through December 15, 2019, and showcases 30 black and white photographs, along with historic feminist publications.

Muska’s photography was revolutionary for its time. In 1970s America, being identified as a lesbian could cause a woman to lose her job, children, and housing. Because Muska’s photographs could have exposed her subjects to these risks, she developed her own film in a basement darkroom for decades. The extraordinary photographic record she produced as a part of the “women’s land” movement in both Minnesota and Oregon, as well as her work as a labor and women’s rights activist, illuminates a new and vital chapter in American history.

Muska was born in St. Paul and raised in Roseville, Minnesota. She came out as a lesbian at age 20 and found support in feminist circles. After earning her BFA at Ohio University, she used photography to record her community of “beautiful, strong women, full of love and joy.” After losing her job as a photojournalist due to anti-LGBTQ employment practices, Muska retrained and became a master electrician. She later founded Minnesota Women in the Trades, a labor organization devoted to racial and gender equity. Now retired, Muska donated her archive to the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

The exhibition is curated by Casey Riley, PhD, curator and head of the Department of Photography and New Media at Mia.

Mia

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About The Minneapolis Institute Of Art

Home to more than 90,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) inspires wonder, spurs creativity, and nourishes the imagination. With extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest wide-ranging art collections in the country—Rembrandt to van Gogh, Monet to Matisse, Asian to African—Mia links the past to the present, enables global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration.

General admission to Mia is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee.

Museum Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday	10am–5pm
Thursday, Friday	10am–9pm
Sunday	11am–5pm
Monday	Closed

For more information, call + 1 612 870 3000 or visit artsmia.org

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