

# Daniel / Oliver

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Press release

## **Daniel/Oliver Gallery Announces its Inaugural Exhibition: *Used Photos***

Daniel/Oliver Gallery inaugurates its new space at 1004 Metropolitan Avenue with the exhibition *Used Photos*, a show that juxtaposes vernacular images, classic and contemporary photographs, utilitarian albums, and themed collections which together explore the various and often contradictory ways photography has been taken, used, and understood throughout the medium's brief but rich history.

An amalgam of image-makers are represented; non-photographers who *used* photography; entrepreneurial picture-takers who commodified the photograph's power as cherished memento; studio portraitists and commercial practitioners employed for their keen eye and technical proficiency; as well as visual artists who draw inspiration from vernacular imagery and media culture.

Since its inception, the Photograph has been used in an immense variety of ways; as artistic expression, scientific tool, commercial instrument, persuasive document and means of record-keeping. These photographic uses, among other practices and intentions such as obsession, surveillance, and advertising, will be explored through the heterogeneous collection on display. The show also examines the way in which our interpretations of vernacular photography are altered by time, dissemination and perspective. Blurring the lines of applied and fine arts, comparisons are drawn between an array of photographic objects that both employ stark contrasts from one another, and unusual similarities.

Highlights include a number of compelling photo albums, which reveal as much about the compiler as they do the subjects. This includes a 1961 typology which humanely portrays shoplifters at a Woolworths in Chicago after they've been caught; and the scrapbook of an amateur hypnotist, documenting, as proof, his subjects under hypnosis. Also on display are works by noted studio and commercial photographers such Jimmy Baynes, whose souvenir portraits paint a dynamic picture of Black nightlife in 1950s Cleveland; and Malick Sidibé whose own party photography captured the spirit and exuberance of post-liberated Mali. Other unconventional portraiture includes an early suite of proto-mugshots portraying some of the men who conspired to assassinate Abraham Lincoln; one of the first photographs to be transmitted by telegraph; a snapshot of Jimi Hendrix asleep; and a series of almost-abstract self-portraits produced in a Chuck E. Cheese photobooth. Vernacular images are shown alongside classic and contemporary photographs by artists such as Walker Evans, Christian Patterson, Penelope Umbrico, and Jared Bark, each of whom appropriates, references, or engages with the vernacular through their artistic practices.

The show will run from December 9th to February 6th, 2022, with an opening reception on December 9th from 6-9pm.

Daniel / Oliver Gallery, 1004 Metropolitan Avenue.  
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