

Spencer Art Reference Library

Library Guide

Melissa Shook

Resource List | 2024



From December 1972 through 1973, photographer Melissa Shook (1939-2020) undertook a project to take a self-portrait of herself every day for a year. In the resulting 200 photographs, Shook touches on themes of memory, family, and her sense of self. For this bibliography, created to accompany the exhibition, “To Prove that I Exist”: Melissa Shook’s Daily Self-Portraits, 1972 - 1973, books and articles were selected that explore her self-portraits series as well as her artistic practice more broadly.

If you have questions, please contact the reference staff at the Spencer Art Reference Library (telephone 816-751-1216). Library hours and services are listed on the Museum’s website at <https://nelson-atkins.org/library/>

Selected by:
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Melissa Shook

“‘To Prove that I Exist’: Melissa Shook’s Daily Self-Portraits, 1972–1973.” The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, March 9, 2024–August 4, 2024. Accessed December 20, 2023. <https://nelson-atkins.org/exhibitions/prove-exist-melissa-shooks-daily-self-portraits-1972-73/>

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Call No: TR681 .F28 F35 1993

Shook, Melissa. *Daily Self-Portraits 1972 – 1973*. TBW Books, 2024. Accessed February 23, 2024. <https://tbwbooks.com/products/daily-self-portraits-1972-1973>

McKeon, Lucy. “Melissa Shook: More Real Than Memory,” *Aperture*, no. 253 (Winter 2023): 60-65.

“Melissa Shook: Self-Portrait,” *Creative Camera*, no. 125 (November 1974): 380-383.

“Daily Self-Portraits,” *Melissa Shook*, accessed December 20, 2023. <https://www.melissashook.com/selfportraits>

Melissa Shook, Blogspot.com. Accessed February 23, 2024. <https://melissashook.blogspot.com/>

“Melissa Shook, Daily Self-Portraits, February 18 – March 31, 2017.” Joseph Bellows Gallery. Accessed February 23, 2024. <https://www.josephbellows.com/exhibitions/melissa-shook/selected-works?view=thumbnails>

Melissa Shook collection, 1994. AG 224. Center for Creative Photography. University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. Accessed February 16, 2024. <https://aspace.ccp.arizona.edu/repositories/2/resources/201>

Shook, Melissa. “Photo Essay.” *Women’s Studies Quarterly* 14, no. 1/2 (1986): 29–31.

“Melissa Shook, 1939 –2020,” *The Boston Globe*, September 16, 2020. Accessed February 16, 2024. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/boston-globe/name/melissa-shook-obituary?id=2272237>

“Melissa Shook, American, 1939–2020,” Museum of Modern Art. Accessed February 16, 2020. <https://www.moma.org/artists/5407>

“Late American Artist Melissa Shook’s Work is Featured in Exhibition at Miyako Yoshinaga,” *Art Daily*, Accessed January 17, 2024. <https://artdaily.com/news/164697/Late-American-artist-Melissa-Shook-s-work-is-featured-in-exhibition-at-Miyako-Yoshinaga>

Feldman, Ellen. “The Meeting of Art and Technology: The Polaroid Collections.” *The Women’s Review of Books* 32, no. 1 (2015): 16–17. Accessed February 16, 2024. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24430648>.

University Archives and Special Collections. “Melissa Shook: Inside and Out – Photographs on Display in the University Hall and Grossmans galleries,” *Open Archives News*, UMass Boston, September 13, 2022. Accessed February 23, 2024. <https://blogs.umb.edu/archives/2022/09/13/melissa-shook-inside-and-out-photographs-on-display-in-the-university-hall-and-grossmann-galleries/>

“Melissa Shook, American, 1939–2020,” Miyako Yoshinaga, Accessed February 23, 2024. <https://miyakoyoshinaga.com/artists/melissa-shook/>

Image Credits

Melissa Shook, American (1939-2020). *December 13, 1972*. Gelatin silver print, 4 1/4 × 4 1/4 inches. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Gift of the Hall Family Foundation, 2015.20.55.

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