

Guide to the Laura McPhee Photographs of the American West

WA Photos Folio 152



by Matthew Daniel Mason

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	3
Preferred Citation	4
Processing Information	4
Related Materials	4
Laura McPhee (born 1958)	4
Content Description	4
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Photographs of Arizona, 2012	6
Series II: Photographs of Idaho, 2007-2013	7
Series III: Photographs of Nevada, 2012	8
Series IV: Photographs of Utah, 2010-2011	9
Series V: Photographs of Wyoming, 2013	10
Selected Search Terms	11

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: WA Photos Folio 152

CREATOR: McPhee, Laura (1958)

TITLE: Laura McPhee Photographs of the American West

DATES: 2008–2013

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.1 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: Photographs created by Laura McPhee that document sites in the American West, 2008-2013, including landscapes and communities in Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mcpheepotaw>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mcpheepotaw>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Laura McPhee on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2014 and 2017, and gift of Laura McPhee, 2014 and 2018.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

Laura McPhee Photographs of the American West. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Related Materials

Laura McPhee *River of No Return* Collection (WA Photos 591). Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Laura McPhee Papers (WA MSS S-4553). Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Laura McPhee (born 1958)

Laura McPhee is a photographer. Born in New York City and raised in central New Jersey, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from Princeton University in 1980, and a Master of Fine Arts in Photography from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1986. Her work, which ranges from portrait to landscape to still life, is widely exhibited nationally and internationally. She has been a member of the faculty at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design since 1986 and lives in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Content Description

Photographs created by Laura McPhee that document sites in the American West, 2008-2013, including landscapes and communities in Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. The collection consists of 23 chromogenic color prints, 44 x 56 cm, including two pairs of prints presented as diptychs, as well as a single print measuring 51 x 61 cm. The collection also includes a portrait of her daughter, Isobel McPhee, created in Nevada.

Photographs of Arizona in 2012 include views of the former open pit copper and turquoise mine operated by the Phelps Dodge Corporation at Lavender Pit in Bisbee and a view of the Ray Mine Project, a copper mine in Pinal County.

Photographs of Idaho, 2007-2013, include discrete views of the Silver City and the Meadow Creek Wind Farm in Ririe as well as sites along the Big Wood River and Salmon River. Two prints document the aftermath of a forest fire at the White Cloud Peaks.

A diptych of photographs of Nevada in 2012 documents the Smoke Creek Desert with the railway of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company.

Photographs of Utah, 2010-2011, include discrete views of Burr Creek in Long Canyon and Lime Creek in Valley of the Gods as well as views of electric lines along the Book Cliffs, the interior of a store in the ghost town of Mutual, and tanker railcars on a railroad siding at the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) project site in Crescent Junction.

Photographs of Wyoming in 2013 include views of natural gas wells in the Wind River Basin, an abandoned automobile service station in Green River, and the Kemmerer Mine coal strip mining complex in Lincoln

County as well as images of Scotty Lake in Sweetwater County and the Worthen Meadow Reservoir in Shoshone National Forest.

Manuscript inscriptions of titles and dates by the photographer on versos of most prints.

Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Photographs of Arizona, 2012. II. Photographs of Idaho, 2007-2013. III. Photographs of Nevada, 2012. IV. Photographs of Utah, 2010-2011. V. Photographs of Wyoming, 2013.

Collection Contents

Series I: Photographs of Arizona, 2012

b.1 (Oversize), f. 1	<i>Former Copper and Turquoise Mine, Lavender Pit, Bisbee, Arizona</i> (Negative number 94829)	2012
b.1 (Oversize), f. 2	<i>Lavender Pit, Closed Copper and Turquoise Mine, Bisbee, Arizona</i> (Negative number 94826)	2012
b.1 (Oversize), f. 3	<i>Tailings from the Ray Cooper Mine in the Sonoran Desert near Florence, Arizona</i> (Negative number 94824)	2012

Series II: Photographs of Idaho, 2007-2013

b.1 (Oversize), f. 4	<i>Big Wood River, Blaine County, Idaho</i> (Negative number 94853)	2012
b.1 (Oversize), f. 5	<i>East Fork, Salmon River, Custer County, Idaho</i> (Negative number 94699) Gift of Laura McPhee, 2014.	2011
b.2 (Oversize), f. 23	<i>Late Summer (Drifting Fireweed)</i> (Unidentified negative number) 1 photographic print, 51 x 61 cm.	2007
b.1 (Oversize), f. 6	<i>Meadow Creek Wind Farm, Ririe, Idaho</i> (Negative number 95049)	2013
b.1 (Oversize), f. 7	<i>Salmon River, Clayton, Idaho</i> (Negative number 94734)	2011
b.1 (Oversize), f. 8	<i>Silver City, Owyhee County, Idaho</i> (Negative number 94785)	2011
b.1 (Oversize), f. 9	<i>Untitled</i> (Unidentified negative number) Image documents a meadow with automobile tracks made in the foilage. Purchased from Laura McPhee on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2017.	circa 2007
b.1 (Oversize), f. 10	<i>Untitled</i> (Unidentified negative number) View of a snow-covered Washington Peak through a fire-scarred forest at the White Cloud Peaks.	2008

Series III: Photographs of Nevada, 2012

b.1 (Oversize), f. *Isobel* (Unidentified negative number) 2012
11 Gift of Laura McPhee, 2018.

b.1 (Oversize), f. *Smoke Creek Desert and the Southern Pacific Rail Lines, Nevada* (Negative number 2012
12 94839 and 94846)
Dptych of 2 photographic prints, each measuring 44 x 56 cm

Series IV: Photographs of Utah, 2010-2011

b.1 (Oversize), f. 13	<i>Cottonwoods, Lime Creek, Valley of the Gods, Utah</i> (Negative number 94638)	2011
b.1 (Oversize), f. 14	<i>High Voltage Transmission Lines by the Book Cliffs, near Green River, Utah</i> (Negative number 94664)	2011
b.1 (Oversize), f. 15	<i>Long Canyon and Burr Creek, Escalante, Utah</i> (Negative numbers 94554 and 94537) Diptych of 2 photographic prints, each measuring 44 x 56 cm, that forms a panoramic view.	2010
b.1 (Oversize), f. 16	<i>Mutual Store, Spring Canyon Road, Near Helper, Utah</i> (Negative number 94643)	2011
b.1 (Oversize), f. 17	<i>Tanker Train, Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Disposal Site, Crescent Junction, Utah</i> (Negative number 94684)	2011

Series V: Photographs of Wyoming, 2013

b.1 (Oversize), f. 18	<i>The Mesa, Natural Gas Wells near the Wind River Range, Wyoming</i> (Negative number 95040)	2013
b.1 (Oversize), f. 19	<i>Old Highway 80, Green River, Wyoming</i> (Negative number 95007)	2013
b.1 (Oversize), f. 20	<i>Open Pit Coal Mine, Kemmerer, Wyoming</i> (Negative number 95014)	2013
b.1 (Oversize), f. 21	<i>Rain, Worthen Meadow Reservoir, Wind River Range, Wyoming</i> (Negative number 95034)	2013
b.1 (Oversize), f. 22	<i>Scolty Lake, Sweetwater County, Wyoming</i> (Negative number 95026)	2013

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Coal mines and mining -- Arizona -- Pinal County -- Pictorial works
Copper mines and mining -- Arizona -- Bisbee -- Pictorial works
Electric lines -- Utah -- Pictorial works
Gas wells -- Wyoming -- Wind River Basin -- Pictorial works
Service stations -- Wyoming -- Green River -- Pictorial works
Strip mining -- Arizona -- Bisbee -- Pictorial works
Strip mining -- Wyoming -- Lincoln County -- Pictorial works
Turquoise mines and mining -- Arizona -- Bisbee -- Pictorial works

Geographic Names

Arizona -- Pictorial works
Big Wood River (Idaho) -- Pictorial works
Bisbee (Ariz.) -- Pictorial works
Book Cliffs (Utah and Colo.) -- Pictorial works
Burr Creek (Utah) -- Pictorial works
Crescent Junction (Utah) -- Pictorial works
Green River (Wyo.) -- Pictorial works
Idaho -- Pictorial works
Lavender Open Pit Mine (Ariz.) -- Pictorial works
Lime Creek (Utah) -- Pictorial works
Lincoln County (Wyo.) -- Pictorial works
Long Canyon (Utah) -- Pictorial works
Mutual (Utah) -- Pictorial works
Nevada -- Pictorial works
Pinal County (Ariz.) -- Pictorial works
Ririe (Idaho) -- Pictorial works
Salmon River (Idaho) -- Pictorial works
Scotty Lake (Wyo.) -- Pictorial works
Shoshone National Forest (Wyo.) -- Pictorial works
Silver City (Idaho) -- Pictorial works
Smoke Creek Desert (Nev.) -- Pictorial works
Sweetwater County (Wyo.) -- Pictorial works
Utah -- Pictorial works
Valley of the Gods (Utah) -- Pictorial works
West (U.S.) -- Pictorial works
White Cloud Peaks (Idaho) -- Pictorial works

Wind River Basin (Wyo.) -- Pictorial works
Worthen Meadow Reservoir (Wyo.) -- Pictorial works
Wyoming -- Pictorial works

Genres / Formats

Chromogenic color prints
Dptychs
Photographs

Names

McPhee, Isobel -- Portraits
McPhee, Laura (1958)

Corporate Bodies

Phelps Dodge Corporation -- Pictorial works
Ray Mine Project -- Pictorial works
Southern Pacific Railroad Company -- Pictorial works

Acquired From

McPhee, Laura (1958) , bookseller