



FALL/WINTER 2026
III OJAC

CALENDAR

SEP

- 26 Fall Exhibitions Open
- LARRY SMITH: Look at This!
 - MCKEE FRAZIOR: FDR (Cell Series)

OCT

- 16 Taco Tailgate
- 31 Family Festival: Día de Los Muertos
Celebrate a traditional Mexican holiday

NOV

- 16 OJAC Board Meeting
- 28 Family Festival: St. Nicholas
Christmas in the Netherlands

JAN

- No Spring Opening due to Art Storage
Renovation Project
- Permanent Collection

FEB

- 27 Family Festival: Setsubun
Celebrating the arrival of Spring in Japan

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American
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RECENT GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

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**Lists may be incomplete due to printing deadline.*



Front cover:
BILL BOMAR, *Hedgerow to the Sea*, 1950s
watercolor on paper, 12.5 in. x 9.5 in.
OJAC Collection, Gift of the artist. 1987.028

Bill Bomar was both a talented artist and discerning art collector. As co-founder of the museum, his influence is widespread. Bomar's many contributions to the OJAC form much of the museum's core collection.

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Kellie Bellah, Administrative Assistant
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**listing limited to full-time staff*

A collecting institution has the responsibility to preserve, protect, and interpret what it holds in public trust.



The Old Jail Art Center has a remarkable art collection that began with 325 works gifted from founders Reilly Nail and Bill Bomar. Their passion for art, and desire to share their collections with the community and travelers passing through within a repurposed historic jail began in 1980. Through additional gifts, bequests, and purchases over the years, the OJAC collection now includes over 2,400 ancient, modern, and contemporary works of art.

Encyclopedic and eclectic are the terms often used to describe the collection that continues to thoughtfully grow to enhance what it can offer audiences and art education outreach. I see the collection as the “engine” that allows us to provide relevant content and broaden perspectives for students and museum visitors.

With that said, a collecting institution has the responsibility to preserve, protect, and interpret what it holds in public trust. There are certain obligations and costs associated with this responsibility. Maintaining a safe and efficient environment for the works of art is a priority.

Except for a modest expansion to our art storage twenty years ago, the storage racks, cabinets, and shelving have not been updated since 1984. This winter, the first project of our capital campaign *Preserving the Past, Sustaining the Future*, will involve retrofitting and reconfiguring the existing art storage to maximize space and double our storage capacity—avoiding a more costly addition to the footprint. Additionally, small objects will be consolidated; larger sculptures will have a devoted area; and two-dimensional works will be hung on more compact mobile racks.

To save money and reduce wear-and-tear on the collection, we have opted to store all works on-site. Several of our exhibition spaces will be used for temporary storage but other galleries will continue to host scheduled temporary exhibits and highlights from the collection. This capital project was expedited to “lock in” the ever-increasing prices of materials and is made possible by the generous support of early donors to our current capital campaign. This and future capital projects and financial goals will ensure the OJAC thrives as a cultural institution for generations.

During this involved project we hope that our members and audiences will “pardon our progress!”

Patrick Kelly
Executive Director



LARRY SMITH, *Abilene, Texas*, 1983, photographic print. Courtesy of the artist.

LARRY SMITH: Look at This!

Since his early teens, photographer Larry Smith has honed his technical skills, making them second nature, which has allowed him to focus on thoughtful observation and intuition. In doing so, he seizes on compositional opportunities many others dismiss or are oblivious to. Nothing is overtly spectacular about Smith's chosen subjects. In fact, they are scenes, scenarios, and places we likely encounter every day. What is remarkable is his ability to glean from the ordinary an image worthy of consideration.

Smith's knack for being in the right place at the right time coupled with his ability to recognize, compose, and capture an image in a fraction of a second is a combination that takes decades to perfect. His black and white photographs record what it is to be human—documenting the simple pleasure of family and friends, isolation in a world filled with others, moments of melancholy, and the monotony that fills the gaps.

Larry Smith (b. 1951) has lived in Abilene, Texas his entire life, but his photographs capture a broad range of subjects and locations. He first became interested in photography while helping his older brother develop high school yearbook photos. As an adult, he worked at Keaton Kolor, the Abilene photo lab, from 1973-1990, but never pursued fine art photography as a profession. With the exception of a solo show at the Center for Contemporary Arts in his hometown in the mid-1970s, Smith has not exhibited his work. For him, the act of creating is motivation enough.

LARRY SMITH: Look at This! is supported by Lynne & Clifford Teinert and OJAC Members.

MCKEE FRAZIOR: FDR

Part of the *Cell Series* of Exhibitions

The *Cell Series* remains committed to showcasing unique experiences with contemporary art, from hand-stacked stone wells to giant beetle puppets to video and sound. McKee Frazier's new media work continues this lineage of highly unique art installations in this imposing space.

The following statement from the artist's website offers the best description of Frazier's work and a sense of the artist's humor that goes along with it:

McKee Frazier treats the internet as physical material—not metaphorically, but structurally. He is interested in the infrastructure beneath the surface: latency, entropy, network protocols, and the ephemera that accumulates through use and neglect. He considers himself a hypermedia artist, which is a real thing he did not make up. His works are rarely static. They adapt to prior interactions and states, making the audience an integral part of the process whether they consented to that or not. His current obsessions include QR codes and the internet as a substrate that decays, forgets, and occasionally apologizes without meaning it. Themes of awkwardness, play, mild anxiety, and systems failing gracefully permeate his output.

Frazier was born in 1979 at Spohn Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas, and has yet to reach his life expectancy. While working toward that goal, he attended the University of Texas at Austin (BFA 2002) and SMU Guildhall (Graduate Certificate in Interactive Technology in Digital Game Development, 2005), receiving papers from both. He has exhibited himself and others across Texas, never receiving a citation for doing so. He holds an MFA in New Media from Texas Christian University (2025). He exists geographically, mainly in the DFW area, playing with internet infrastructure, QR codes, drawing, software, sound, video, text, interactivity, and the space between wards.



MCKEE FRAZIOR: 2025 installation of *TTL PC* at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth.
Courtesy of the artist.

The *Cell Series* is supported by The Charles E. Jacobs Foundation, McGinnis Family Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas, Anonymous, and Dr. Larry Wolz.

An acclaimed exhibition series, the *Cell Series* presents living artists and their work. It offers a rare opportunity to encounter work that interprets and translates the world we universally experience in unique and surprising ways. The founders of the OJAC were passionate about supporting and showing living artists and their work—the museum continues this important mission with the *Cell Series*.

OJAC Capital Campaign

Phase 1: Art Storage Renovation

As a collecting museum, the OJAC's holdings continue to grow and protecting these items is our number-one priority. Yet, like most museums, we are only able to exhibit a fraction of our collection at one time. That means the vast majority of objects require dedicated storage between rotations in public exhibitions. Storage space is expensive to build and maintain, especially when a climate-controlled environment is required. Rather than extend the footprint of the existing vault, the OJAC has elected to utilize more efficient storage solutions within the space we have.

For Phase 1 of our capital projects, the OJAC has contracted with Southwest Solutions to install a much more efficient and safer art storage system. Based in Lewisville, TX since 1969, Southwest Solutions has worked with museums across Texas to improve efficiency and safe practices for numerous outstanding collections, including the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, San Antonio Museum of Art, and our own Robert E. Nail Jr Archives.

The OJAC's existing mobile racks will be replaced with retractable racks for two-dimensional works, peg boards that currently line the walls will be replaced with steel panels for smaller works, and upgraded shelving will be installed for smaller three-dimensional works. While the OJAC has long used rolling art racks that slide back and forth on ceiling tracks, the new retractable mobile



OJAC Executive Director/Curator Patrick Kelly packs Ancient Americas collection objects in custom boxes.



OJAC Collections Manager/Associate Curator Amy Kelly preps larger Ancient Americas objects for short term storage.

racks will compact together when not in use. When access is needed, a wider aisle can be opened up to view and retrieve works. The new compact storage system will also include adjustable shelving for three-dimensional works of various sizes. Other improvements include replacing overhead florescent lighting with more energy efficient LED lighting.

OJAC staff have been working with Southwest Solutions for over a year to custom-design storage to suit the requirements of our museum's eclectic and growing collections. Staff began consolidating and packing smaller items over the summer and they will work through the fall to move over 2,400 objects before December 7 when renovations begin. In order to save storage fees and minimize stress on the objects, all works will be stored on-site in several galleries that will remain temporarily closed to the public.

NOTE: Due to the extensive logistics of the vault renovation, there will be no art auction this year as originally planned.



1. Personage
Charles T. Williams



2. Smiling Monster
Rene Trevino



3. Standing Female Dancer
Chinese, Tang Dynasty



4. Autumn Tree
Gene Owens



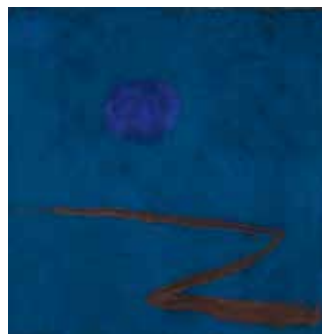
5. Portrait Vessel
Chimu



6. The Entertainers
Bror Utter



7. Young Girl with Braids
Amedeo Modigliani



8. The Path Into Blue
Paul Klee



9. Blue Hyacinth
Evaline Sellors

Can you place 9 works of art from the OJAC's collection in chronological order?

Order the numbers from ancient to contemporary: ____ _

Get 8-9 correct? You know your stuff!

Get 5-7 correct? Not too bad.

Get 2-4 correct? Time to buy an art history book.

Get 1 or less correct? Visit the museum asap!

Answers on page 13



1. Abilene family responds to MEL ZIEGLER: Clear Skies exhibition by drawing their own collections in “My Cupboard” project in Family Studio Zone. 2. Art-To-Go instructor Lisa Patton leads May tour for Stamford High School students. 3. Students from Oliver Elementary enjoy interactive Art-To-Go tour. 4. George Kelly completes installataion of 161 shelves for Mel Ziegler’s *Dark on that Whiteness*. 5. Noah Covington makes the birds sing at OJAC’s interactive donation box. 6. Andre and Roxanne Raymond paint walls in Nail Gallery for Ziegler exhibition. 7. Participants at Cultural Connections: PERU Camp show off their Llama Weaving projects.



1. TCU grad student Emily Nunn arranges jars in *Grandma's Cupboard* for MEL ZIEGLER: *Clear Skies* exhibition. 2. OJAC's newest board member Joni Green and her two young sons enjoy special Fandangle events in June. 3. Area teachers make Papel Picado Velas during iFiesta! Teacher Workshop 4. Fancy Dancers performance draws a large crowd on second Fandangle weekend. 5. OJAC Educator Stephanie Swaim leads discussion of museum careers during May school tour. 6. Adam Rico, Cell Series artist Willie Binnie, and gallerist Bart Keisjers Koning attend summer opening. 7. All ages enjoy Japanese crafts, games, and food at Kodomo No Hi Family Festival 8. Artist Mel Ziegler fills rain gauges with water from the geographic center of the US in *Clear Skies*.

MEET & MAKE

Creating Community Through Art



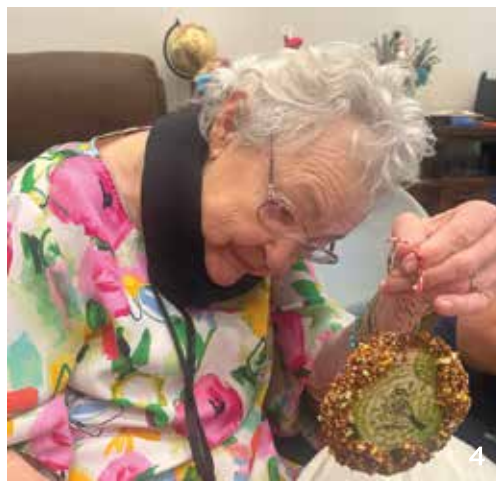
At the Old Jail Art Center, we believe that art has the power to bring people together at every stage of life. Our *Meet & Make* program was created to ensure that senior adults throughout West Texas can continue to experience the joy of creativity, regardless of age, cognitive ability, or physical limitations. We connect with area nursing facilities and assisted living centers to provide opportunities for senior learners to share, create, and move together.

Each session begins with a conversation centered around a work of art or artifact from the OJAC collection. Participants share memories and personal experiences to connect with one another before creating a hands-on art project designed for all skill levels. The emphasis is not on creating a perfect work of art, but on enjoying the creative process together.

Meet & Make offers opportunities for self-expression while fostering social connections that help reduce loneliness and isolation. Projects are designed to promote confidence, curiosity, and lifelong learning. The program makes it possible for seniors to have experiences with the arts even if they do not have the opportunity to visit our museum.

We are honored to partner with eight care facilities across West Texas to ensure that creativity, curiosity, and community remain thriving at every stage of life. As *Meet & Make* continues to grow, the OJAC remains dedicated to extending its mission beyond the museum walls.

Meet & Make is supported by Mac McGinnis, Lance & Tamberley Thomas, and Amy & Patrick Kelly.



1. BeeHive Homes resident shares her completed Sand Art project in Abilene.
2. Mozelle Bartee molds a cheerful Ceramic Photo Holder at Villa Haven Health and Rehabilitation Center in Breckenridge.
3. Meet & Make participants combine art and nature to create Stamped Bird Feeders at Sterling Hills in Sweetwater.
4. Peggy with Stamped Bird Feeder at BeeHive Homes of Abilene.
5. Residents at Sterling Hills Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center make Stained Glass Lanterns in Sweetwater.



1



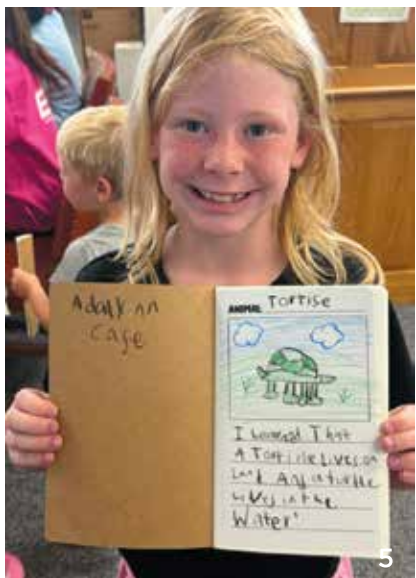
2



3



4



5



6

SUMMER SNAPSHOTS

ART@HOME ACTIVITY KITS

Daily
ages 6 - 12

TEEN COUNCIL

Every Wednesday
grades 6 - 12

3RD THURSDAY STUDIO

3rd Thursday
adults 21+

FAMILY FESTIVALS

Monthly
families + all ages

1. Farrah Viertel displays her cyanotype portrait at STEAM Camp.
2. Young explorers wear zoo keeper hats at Storytime Studio.
3. Wick Viertel tries out his dinosaur claws at Dino Summer Camp
4. STEAM Campers create RGB shadow puppets.
5. Adalynn Case shares a page from her Animal Journal at Storytime Studio.
6. STEAM Campers use the sun to create a group cyanotype mural.

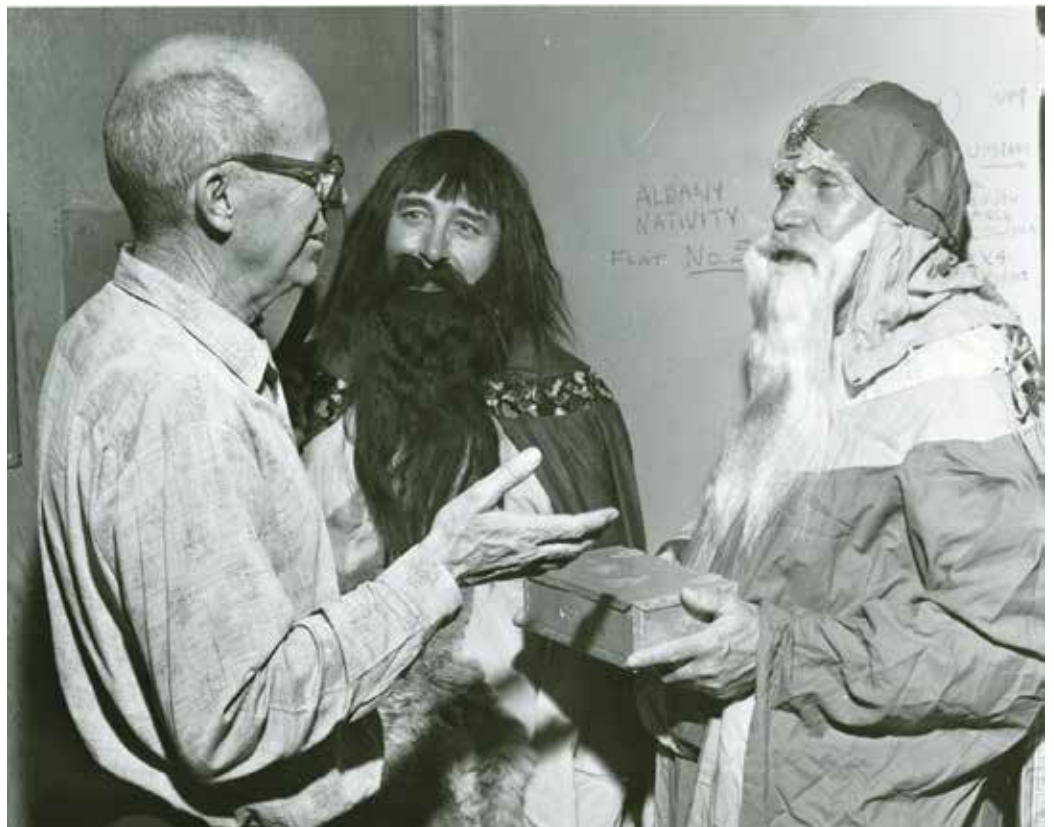
The Albany Nativity

Selections from the Robert E. Nail Jr. Archives

The *Albany Nativity* is a live drama of the advent and birth of Jesus, based on the Old and New Testaments. Written by local playwright Robert E. Nail Jr, the *Albany Nativity* tells the well-known story of the birth of the Christ child, but rather than jumping in somewhere shortly before His birth, Nail starts his play where the Bible begins the narration, in Genesis.

The *Albany Nativity* was first performed on December 18, 1939 at Matthews Memorial Presbyterian Church. Nine productions were held in the church before it was moved to the auditorium of Nancy Smith Elementary school in 1952. After the performances of 1982, the auditorium was remodeled into a kindergarten area and the sets and costumes were packed away in storage. The Nativity was revived in 1991 following the renovation of the Aztec Theater on Main Street, and the production is now performed at the Aztec every other year. The performance is deeply woven into the community's local history and tradition, performed by the citizens of Albany and accompanied by both adult and children's choirs.

The production is presented as "a gift to the community," a phrase coined by its creator Robert Nail in 1939. Nail was also the playwright and director of the *Fort Griffin Fandangle*. Tickets are free and available at the box office 45 minutes prior to each show. **Performances in 2026 will be held on December 12 & 13.**



this page:

Nativity creator-director Bob Nail (L) speaking offstage with Ike Chism (C) and Graham Webb (R), n.d.

ROBERT E. NAIL JR, *Original Character Costume Sketches* [Paseah; Herod], 1939, watercolor on paper.

opposite page:

Clifford Teinert and Penny Brittingham as Gabriel and Mary in performance of the Albany Nativity, c. 1965.

ROBERT E. NAIL JR, *Original Character Costume Sketches* [Mary-Annunciation Scene; Joseph; Mary-Bethlehem and Manger Scene; Esram and Jorim; Soldier], 1939, watercolor on paper.





DICKSON REEDER, *Stephanie*, 1941, oil on canvas, 28.5 x 23.75 in. OJAC Collection, Bequest of Larry Kleinschmidt. 2016.017

ART

The OJAC is honored to be recognized by the Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art (CASETA). At their annual conference held in San Antonio, CASETA announced that ***Texas Moderns: DICKSON REEDER*** was awarded their 2026 Exhibition Award. Their criteria states that “this award is to be presented to an institution that has organized and presented the most outstanding exhibition on early Texas art during the previous calendar year.” The Fall 2025 exhibition included 75 works by Reeder with 21 from the museum’s permanent collection and 54 borrowed from numerous individuals and institutions across Texas. This exhibition was co-curated by OJAC Associate Curator Amy Kelly and Guest Curator Shannon Steel of Dallas.



CHARLES UMLAUF, *Goddess in Repose*, 1953, bronze, 5 x 7.5 x 3 in. OJAC Collection, Gift of Bill Bomar. 1981.271

Two works from the OJAC’s permanent collection were loaned to the Umlauf Museum + Sculpture Garden in Austin, TX for inclusion in their 35th anniversary exhibition. Curated by Katie Robinson Edwards, **35x35x35** highlighted 35 works by Charles Umlauf from 35 collectors to showcase the breadth of Umlauf’s artistic legacy by bringing together works held both publicly and privately.

Answers to quiz on p. 6:
3 - 618-907 CE; 5 - 1000-1466 CE; 7 - 1910; 8 - 1934;
9 - 1940; 6 - 1950; 1 - 1964; 4 - 1982; 2 - 2018



STAFF

In May, **Hannah Rankin** was promoted to full-time staff to assume the role of Student & Teacher Programs Coordinator. Her duties include coordinating the OJAC’s popular *Art-to-Go* program across 27 schools in the Region 14 area and leading teacher in-service workshops in the summer. A familiar face around the OJAC, Hannah has lived in Albany all her life and has been an *Art-to-Go* instructor for the past 11 years.

At the same time, Dylan Wells shifted to part-time work in anticipation of a move to Brazil at the end of the year. Hannah and Dylan have worked alongside one another for several years, so the transition has been seamless.

TRAVEL

Your Next Great Adventure Awaits!

Imagine exploring world-famous museums before they open to the public, enjoying private visits to artists' studios and historic estates, or sailing the Nile while discovering thousands of years of history alongside leading scholars. These are just a few of the unforgettable experiences available through a **Museum Travel Alliance (MTA) journey, a new travel benefit available exclusively to OJAC Patron members and above.** The MTA partners with some of the world's leading museums and cultural institutions to create thoughtfully curated journeys that bring art, history, architecture, and culture to life. Whether your interests take you across the United States or around the globe, each itinerary offers immersive experiences led by respected art historians, curators, museum directors, and scholars.

Travelers enjoy behind-the-scenes access to renowned museums and cultural sites, guided sightseeing, private receptions, and visits to collections and places rarely open to the public. Every detail—from accommodations to dining—is carefully selected to complement the destination and enrich the experience. Upcoming journeys include destinations such as London, Tunisia, New York's Hudson Valley, Sicily & Malta, Seoul, Egypt, and so much more.

As an added benefit, every time an eligible OJAC member books a MTA trip and selects OJAC as their "home" museum, MTA contributes \$500 directly to the museum. Your next adventure not only creates lasting memories—it also helps support exhibitions, educational programs, and the museum's mission all in one.



In **London**, guests receive before-hours access to the National Gallery, curator-led visits to the Royal Academy, and private tours of Hampton Court Palace while staying at the historic Brown's Hotel.



In **Tunisia**, travelers explore the ancient ruins of Carthage, the celebrated Bardo Museum, and the UNESCO World Heritage city of Kairouan while enjoying luxury accommodations throughout the journey.

Closer to home, the **Hudson Valley** itinerary offers exclusive access to museum archives, private collections, artists' studios, and some of America's most significant historic estates, including the Vanderbilt Mansion.



MUSEUM
HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday

11 am - 5 pm

Closed Major Holidays

ALWAYS FREE!

SHOPOJAC

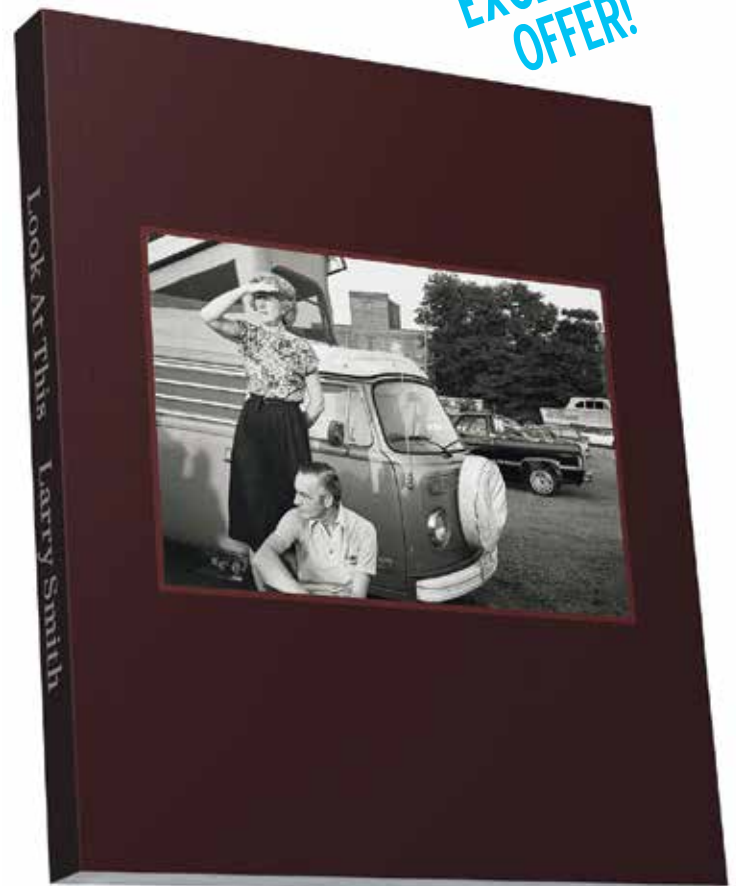
Look at This: Larry Smith in Black & White, 1967-2025

- Essay by Patrick Kelly, Executive Director and Curator, Old Jail Art Center
- Artist Interview by Valentin Diakonov, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, The Whitworth, University of Manchester
- Published by award-winning designer Jeanette Abbink as the inaugural title from her imprint Rational Beauty Press
- Limited edition clothbound hardcover book includes 127 photographs reproduced in tri-tone over 176 pages

Members | \$75

Non-members | \$82.50

EXCLUSIVE
OFFER!



**Read about Larry Smith's photography exhibition on page 3.*