

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 2025

Contact: Summer Clark, Marketing Specialist • summer.clark@ucr.edu

Shadow Archive
Meggan Gould



Image: Meggan Gould and unknown photographer, Untitled #9. Exhibition print from original negative found in the CMP Technology Collection, UCR ARTS. Courtesy of the artist.

February 22–July 27, 2025

UCR ARTS, California Museum of Photography

Exhibition Walkthrough: Friday, March 21 [time TBD]

Artist-led Tour and Conversation

Spring Reception: Saturday, March 22, 3–6 p.m.

Free and open to the public



Image: Meggan Gould, *7 Pictures Remaining*, 2022–23. 36 inkjet prints after original lumen prints. Courtesy of the artist.

UCR ARTS California Museum of Photography (CMP) unveils *Shadow Archive: Meggan Gould*, on view in downtown Riverside from Feb. 22 through July 27, 2025, the artist’s inaugural museum presentation. Gould resurrects hundreds of forgotten photographic negatives found in the museum’s camera collection, transforming overlooked images into a compelling visual narrative. The exhibition offers an exclusive glimpse into this hidden photographic universe.

Gould’s work explores facets of camera technology that usually reside comfortably and invisibly outside the image’s cameras produce—the varying structures and functions of viewfinders, film frame counters, and camera icons—questioning the particular ways these seemingly neutral attributes shape the photographer, and the medium itself.

As part of *7 Pictures Remaining*, Gould surveyed thousands of cameras in the CMP’s Technology Collection to document various styles of frame counters, dials and windows on analog cameras that indicate how many exposures remain on a roll of film. This project took an unexpected turn when she discovered that many of the cameras contained undeveloped rolls of film. Newly energized, Gould opened nearly all of the cameras in the collection, uncovering hundreds of never before seen images.

“These images are almost-never-weres and long-have-beens,” muses Gould in the book she published on the project in 2024. “These negatives emerge dripping with fixer, image-objects that are drained of original-intent-lifeblood, and yet newly alive, in a shifted context.”

A wide selection of prints made from these anonymous images are presented alongside Gould’s *7 Pictures Remaining* series, connecting the numbers on Gould’s frame counter images to specific exposures hidden for decades within these cameras. Gould’s undertaking yielded fascinating discoveries and intimate moments connecting cameras, and former camera owners, to their images, effectively operating as a “shadow archive” within the CMP collection.



Image: Meggan Gould and unknown photographer, Untitled #18. Exhibition print from original negative found in the CMP Technology Collection, UCR ARTS. Courtesy of the artist.

Photographer Allan Sekula coined the term “shadow archive” to describe private, vernacular employments of photography, in contrast to more official types of photographic archives that have been preserved for their empirical and ideological value. The images on offer range from portraits of families clad in 1970s fashions to snapshots of pets long gone, birthday cakes, accidental selfies, and abstract visions produced by overexposed film.

“In processing the negatives and largely printing these works herself, Gould assumed the role of steward of these images and interpreted them through her own creative lens as an artist,” reflects Kathryn Poindexter-Akers, Head of Exhibitions at UCR ARTS and curator of this exhibition. “Most of the images were taken decades ago and were difficult to salvage. Gould considers herself co-creator of these works, as she responded to what seemed to be their own sense of agency and fate. This work speaks to the history of photography as it exists in its less glamorous, but perhaps truest form—anonymously, quotidian, and forgotten images, mistakes, accidents, and images that were commandeered by photography’s mercurial materiality.”

The exhibition as a whole might be seen as a poetic meditation on analog photography: its materials, its formats and conventions, its contingencies, and its particular constraints and forced pacing. *Shadow Archive: Meggan Gould* provides a captivating blend of artistry and new life feeling into forgotten moments of photographic history. The exhibition will be on view from Feb. 22 through July 27, 2025. On Friday, March 21, the museum will host a tour of the exhibition led by artist Meggan Gould and curator Kathryn Poindexter-Akers.

For more information, including exhibition and tour details, visit ucrarts.ucr.edu/exhibitions/shadow-archive-meggan-gould/ or contact us at ucrarts@ucr.edu.

Select cameras that some of these images were taken with are on view in the first-floor lobby.

Shadow Archive: Meggan Gould is curated by Kathryn Poindexter-Akers, Head of Exhibitions. Exhibitions at UCR ARTS are supported by the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at UCR (CHASS), and by the City of Riverside.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Meggan Gould is an artist and writer based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is Professor in the Department of Art at the University of New Mexico. Gould earned her MFA from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and her BA from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her work has been exhibited widely in the United States and internationally, and is included in many private and corporate collections, as well as public collections including the DeCordova Museum, the New Mexico Museum of Art, Light Work, and the University of New Mexico Art Museum. Her published books include *Sorry, No Pictures* (2021) and *7 Pictures Remaining* (2024).

ALSO ON VIEW

Gail Rebban, About Time

Curated by Sally Stein

March 22–August 17, 2025

Lost in the Wilderness: Ansel Adams in the 1960s

Curated by Douglas McCulloh

January 2–September 28, 2025

Off Reservation: Sofia Valiente and the Photo Students of Sherman Indian High School

Curated by Kathryn Poindexter-Akers and Lindsey Hammel

May 3–November 2, 2025

ABOUT UCR ARTS

UCR ARTS is the California Museum of Photography and the Culver Center of the Arts. Founded in 1973, the **California Museum of Photography** is the photography museum of the University of California. With more than 500,000 objects, it holds one of the major photography collections in the United States. The museum serves diverse local, national, and international audiences through research, exhibitions, education, programming, and publications. The **Culver Center of the Arts** advances the understanding and appreciation of the arts through extraordinary experiences in contemporary visual and performing art, as well as a rich ongoing film program. Culver Center facilities include a 72-seat screening room, computer lab, dance studios, Sweeney Art Gallery and other exhibitions spaces, and a black box studio and recording studio.

UCR ARTS is located at 3824 + 3834 Main Street, downtown Riverside.

Hours are Thursday + Friday, noon–5 p.m., and Saturday + Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. • ucrarts.ucr.edu



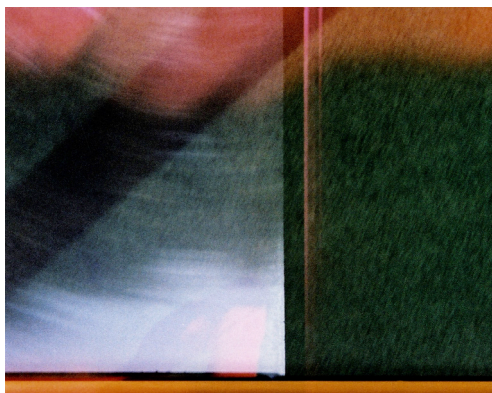
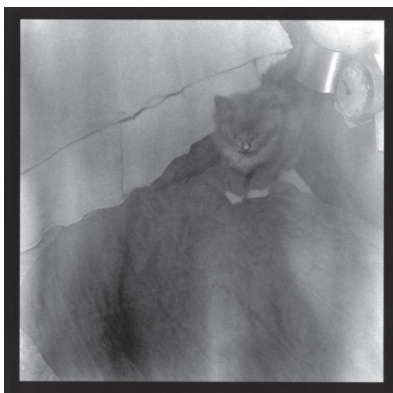
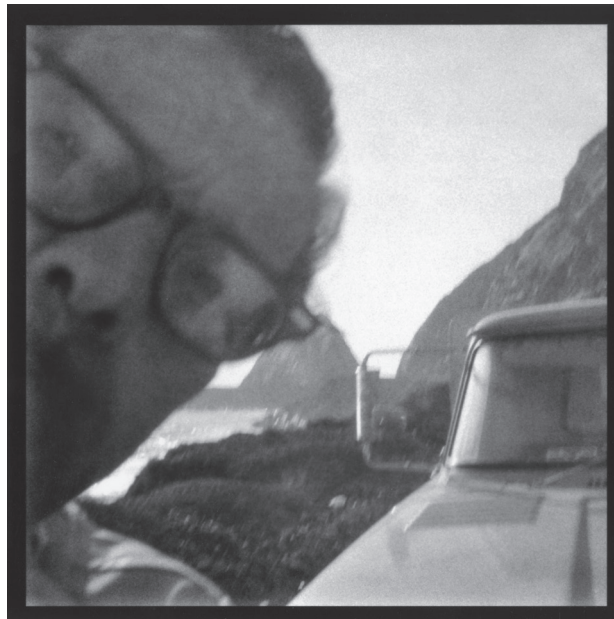
Image: Meggan Gould and unknown photographer, *Untitled #18*. Exhibition print from original negative found in the CMP Technology Collection, UCR ARTS. Courtesy of the artist.



Image: Meggan Gould, *7 Pictures Remaining*, 2022–23. 36 inkjet prints after original lumen prints. Courtesy of the artist.



Image: Meggan Gould and unknown photographer, *Untitled #23*. Exhibition print from original negative found in the CMP Technology Collection, UCR ARTS. Courtesy of the artist.



Images, top to bottom, left to right:

Meggan Gould, *7 Pictures Remaining*, 2022–23. 36 inkjet prints after original lumen prints. Courtesy of the artist.

Meggan Gould and various unknown photographers, *Untitled #34, #2, #35, #33, and #52*. Exhibition prints from original negatives found in the CMP Technology Collection, UCR ARTS. Courtesy of the artist.