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CHRISTOPHER E. MANNING : EVERYTHING, AS PERFECT AS IT SEEMS

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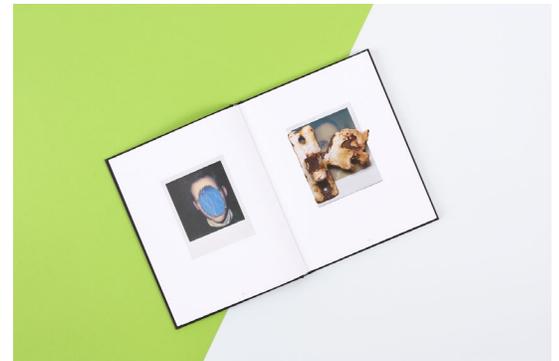
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Christopher E. Manning has an MFA from SUNY New Paltz and BFA from Manhattanville College. He is currently the Exhibitions Manager at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, as well as a Professor of Visual Art at Manhattanville College. His work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, being featured in the New York Times, Queens Chronicle, Aint-Bad Magazine, Polaroid Originals Magazine, Photoklassik International, amongst other publications.

The repetitive and immediate nature of the instant photograph is a ritual, to save a memory, a period of life, just a habitual moment logged into the Dewey decimal system of the collective unconscious. I began to see these instants as fragments of tangible memory, a portrait of what has, will, and always form us. But often looking back on a Polaroid, that moment was just the surface. There were feelings, expressions and images that needed to be revealed or reflected upon with additional commentary. Consequently the process led to excavating the exteriors of time, covering a vulnerability/moment needing to be forgotten or amending memory with footnotes.

The works in this book span the last decade, largely dealing with an autobiographical excavation of the self, with interest in duality and fragmental storytelling through visual representation. Set in a state of flux, each work presents a teetering of truths and lies, light versus dark, and all passages between life, death and rebirth. The cumulative narrative comes to represent a portrait of what shapes us, while embodying the deluge of all that was forgotten or surplus to existence.



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