

onodream GALLERY

Michael Gregg Michaud: Of Objects and Memories

Michael Gregg Michaud is an author, historian and photographer. His photographs capture what would be considered the mundane and turns the subjects into objects of desire. In this catalog of three separate categories of “things” – souvenirs as such, Michaud captures an underlying sense of loneliness and yet of belonging. Toys that remind us of simpler less complicated times and souvenirs of visits to both the cinema and circus if we were so lucky as kids.

The first body of photographs is of everyday toys. Some are made of recycled materials, and some are mass manufactured toys that have gained global recognition. Lincoln Logs, Fiddle Sticks, Jacks and Trolls and the others have become memory markers for many. Used and abused, they have withstood the test of time.

The second body captures the carny/grotesque but amusing nature of the Circus. Michaud is an avid circus buff and his choice of iconic items tells the universal story of the tents, lights, animals and acrobats. Artists have notably been infatuated with the Circus, Toulouse Lautrec being one of the most famous to use the imagery in his oeuvre.

The third but not least section is devoted to the imagery of the original universal sex goddess: Mae West. These are plaster dolls that were mostly used as carnival “prizes” for many years. These little representations of the larger-than-life Mae West have stood stalwartly in a fickle world that forgets as quickly as it recognizes. The dolls take on a life of their own and are filled with a sort of undulating yet innocent sexuality.

Overall, Michaud’s work shines a light on objects that could easily be relegated to the dust bin. His ability to capture the innate charm and visceral sentimentality of these things carries them into a whole different, eternal realm.