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GALLERY & ART ADVISORY

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Peter Kayafas & Paul McDonough

*The Spirit of America*

January 25 - March 2, 2019

The second exhibition at Sarah Shepard Gallery features the work of New York artists Peter Kayafas & Paul McDonough and is in collaboration with Sasha Wolf Projects.

The photographs in this exhibition were made across six decades and a dozen states, combining to create a loose catalog of 'Americanness', from contemporary, young, male rodeo riders in Montana to 1960s, teenage, hippies in Central Park.

This America is instantly recognizable with its various touchstones: muscled, long-haired guys in 1970s California, palm trees swaying in the background, a big marquee on a empty street, proclaiming the coming of Jesus, in Kingman Arizona. And of course everything is America BIG: from the endless expanses of land, beach and sky, to the man-made parking lots and fountains and fair grounds.

Paul McDonough, a friend and contemporary of such notable photographers as Garry Winogrand and Lee Friedlander, made most of his pictures on the streets of New York City, his adopted home, and on summer travels, when on break from teaching at the Pratt Institute in NY. McDonough's pictures are marked by strong compositions- usually of groups of people engaged in some interaction- and a gentle demeanor. McDonough's affection for people is clear in his work.

Kayafas's pictures are slightly less rose-colored; their edge is a little tougher and their view of America more circumspect. But his is also an America we know with signs of religiosity and open roads in equal measure. Kayafas, the son of a printer, grew up making pictures while criss-crossing the country with his Leica camera while still a teenager. Almost 30 years later, that modes operandi remains the same.

For more information contact [sarah@sarahshepardgallery.com](mailto:sarah@sarahshepardgallery.com) or 917-375-2720.

Images from left to right:

Paul McDonough, *Woman Sunbathing, Portland, Oregon, 1973*, gelatin silver print, 16 x 20 in.

Peter Kayafas, *Elephant Butte, New Mexico, 2006*, gelatin silver print, 16 x 20 in.