

# Wild Wild West

Millions of men have lived to fight, build palaces and boundaries, shape destinies and societies; but the compelling force of all times has been the force of originality and creation profoundly affecting the roots of human spirit.

Ansel Adams

This exhibition explores the mythology and romanticism of the American western frontier and its legacy on contemporary photography. The show will look at the cultural icon of the pioneer as an explorer of an unresolved wilderness. Heroic individuals traveled across a rugged and dangerous terrain, mapping out an extremely idealized territory. Photography played a critical role in documenting this magnificent and impressive landscape of the new Americas. Manifest destiny stated the belief that the United States had a mission to expand, spreading its form of democracy and freedom. What captivates us still with the legends and myths of the Wild Wild West?

Artists:

Mark Hooper: Lewis and Clark: Re-expedition photographs. Timothy Hursley: Brothels of Nevada, candid views of America's legal sex industry. Ethan Jackson: Spaghetti westerns, signs, symbols, and symptoms. David Levinthal: Wild West, toy cowboys deconstruct historic icons. Marne Lucas: Logging pin – up photographs. Richard Misrach: Cultural landscape photography. Pipo Nguyen-duy: AnOther Western: cultural identity and immigration. Lori Nix: Disaster Photographs, blending truth and illusion. Shawn Records: Ironic and anecdotal photographs of the suburbs. Berthold Steinhilber: American ghost towns, luminous folklore images.

Todd Johnson

Independent Curator