

## Lesson 5

### CONTENT:

### Signs and Symbols

#### Bruce Davidson

Bruce Davidson (b. 1933, Oak Park, Illinois) has been celebrated for his documentary photographs that showcase the social climate of the United States. His quiet demeanor allows him to be a seemingly invisible photographer when in the streets of New York, allowing him to photograph authentic and important moments in history. He has said, "If I am looking for a story at all, it is in my relationship to the subject—the story that tells me, rather than that I tell." Davidson received a Guggenheim Fellowship (1962) and received the first grant for photography from the National Endowment for the Arts (1967).

#### Olivia Bee

Olivia Bee (b. 1994, Portland, Oregon) is a live wire whose surreal images evoke a sense of nostalgia for the young, the beautiful, and the quotidian. Bee was discovered to create a campaign for Converse, and has since added a number of high-profile projects to her portfolio, including editorial work for the *New York Times* and *Le Monde*. Her first book was published by Aperture in 2016, titled *Kids in Love*.

#### Nan Goldin

Nan Goldin (b. 1953, Washington, D.C.) is an American photographer known for her intensely personal photographs of her family, friends, and lovers. Her richly colored snapshots of her personal life have become highly recognized and she is now known as a pioneer in diaristic photography. At times, Goldin's work can brutally capture the intimate relationships within her life; however, these images still carry a tenderness within them. She has been the recipient of many awards, including the Hasselblad Foundation International Award (2007) and the Edward MacDowell Medal (2012), and she was admitted to the French Legion of Honor (2006). Her work has been exhibited in New York, Paris, and London.

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#### Robert Frank

Robert Frank (b. 1924, Zurich) is an American photographer most notably known for his seminal book *The Americans* (1958), featuring photographs taken in the mid-1950s on a trip across the U.S. His photographs depict iconic symbols of America—the highway, an American flag, the diner—in an honest and intense manner. Frank showcases the tension that exists in American patriotism and uses a loose, casual approach when photographing, oftentimes creating a blurred or tilted image. His work has been exhibited across the world, including Sweden, London, Berlin, and New York. He has received a Guggenheim Fellowship (1955), the Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography (1996), and the Edward MacDowell Medal (2002).

#### James Mollison

James Mollison's (b. 1973, Kenya) portraits of young children create meaningful discussions about humanity and life as a young child. In his book *Where Children Sleep* (2010) Mollison photographs bedrooms of young children who come from all sorts of different backgrounds and locations. These bedrooms act as stand-ins for the children and bring a larger discussion about iconic status and childhood. His photographs have been featured widely in such publications as *Colors*, the *New York Times Magazine*, and *Paris Review*. He has also published several books, among them *James and Other Apes* (2004), *The Disciples* (2008), and *Playground* (Aperture, 2015).

#### Neil Winokur

Neil Winokur (b. 1945, New York) is a native New Yorker who is interested in the possibility of depicting cultures through ordinary objects. Avoiding people altogether, Winokur focuses on objects that symbolize places, such as New York City. His images are simple and eye-catching and have led to extensive recognition in the art world. His work has been collected by the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The Smithsonian Institute published a monograph of his work titled *Everyday Things* (1994).