THE MEGREGOR GALLERY

Chronicles The Great Depression and the Pandemic















Chronicles: The Great Depression and the Pandemic focuses on two different times of national tragedy and perseverance in the United States. It highlights depressionera photographers from the Work Progress Administration's (WPA) Farm Security Administration (FSA) program as well as contemporary photographers reacting to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Both events have had a major impact on American life and society, and photographers were there to document the effects wrought by these experiences.

While very few individuals that lived during the Great Depression of the 1930s are still alive, the photographs taken during that time document the events and the people as they lived. They have provided us with a historical record while framing and defining our understanding of the period. A small number of photographs from that time are part of our national consciousness; however, thousands more have never been displayed or presented to the public. Many of the photographs on these walls come from those lesser-known images — providing a small scope of the people and places affected by the Great Depression. The photographs by the contemporary, Ohio-based artists examine the current health, economic, and social crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic while highlighting how today's situation echoes that of the Great Depression.

Both groups of artists provide a response to a national event: one generation depicting life during the Depression while on assignment from the government and creating a visual style that still resonates today; and a current generation of photographers that are still indebted to that style while responding to contemporary issues with personal, self-directed images and projects.

Chronicles: The Great Depression and the Pandemic was organized by Decorative Arts Center of Ohio and Fowler Artistic LLC and was curated by Dr. Christine Fowler Shearer and Arnold Tunstall.

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