

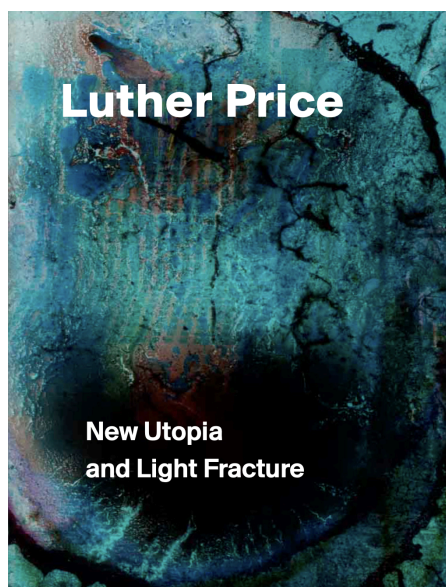
For Immediate Release

Press Contact:

Mariclare Hulbert, Visual Studies Workshop Publicist

mariclare.hulbert@gmail.com

585.278.2302



New Utopia and Light Fracture by Luther Price, VSW Press 2023

VSW PRESS Releases
NEW UTOPIA AND LIGHT FRACTURE BY LUTHER PRICE,
Announces Spring Tour Dates

Rochester, NY (February 06, 2024) Visual Studies Workshop (VSW) is pleased to share [New Utopia and Light Fracture by Luther Price](#), the latest publication from VSW Press/Film Art Book imprint. This book features images taken from artist Luther Price's "handmade" 35mm slides with excerpts from texts and emails sent by the artist to TATE SHAW, editor of VSW Press, between 2017 and 2018. The book includes an introduction by curator ED HALTER (founder of Light Industry) who was a close friend of Price, and an afterword by TATE SHAW. *New Utopia and Light Fracture by Luther Price* is available now; details of book tour events in Chicago, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and Hamilton, NY are listed below.

"New Utopia and Light Fracture by Luther Price offers a unique opportunity to sit with some of Price's most accomplished works, and hear the voice of the artist himself as he communicates

about his delights, distresses, traumas, desires, struggles, and family recipes. There is no book like it.” ~ Tara Merenda Nelson, Managing Editor, VSW Press

About Luther Price:

LUTHER PRICE (January 26, 1962 – June 13, 2020) was a prodigious artist whose work unearthed the deepest, darkest corners of the human experience. Working in film, sculpture, and performance, his haunting portrayals are often manifestations of personas drawn from lived traumas, thickly layered with paint, glitter, glue, and bodily fluids. Price’s films are sculptural compositions in which images of eviscerated bodies, raw meat, hardcore gay porn, and laughing clowns occupy the same psychic space as quiet scenes of street corners, blue skies and empty clotheslines. Born in Marlborough, Massachusetts, Price attended the Massachusetts College of Art in the early 1980’s, where he studied sculpture and performance before turning to Super 8 film after being shot in Nicaragua in 1985. With the support of Super 8 filmmaker SAUL LEVINE, his teacher at MassArt, Price pushed the boundaries of the “home movie” medium, stepping into each role of the fractured family to conjure complicated apparitions on the scratched surface of the film. His practice evolved to include found footage and “handmade film” techniques, incorporating ink, dirt, spit, splices and the process of decay into the production. Price’s work with 16mm found footage is some of the most sophisticated in the tradition, with more than 80 original titles created in the course of his career. In the last decade of his life, Price created breathtaking collages on 35mm slides, combining the techniques he had mastered in his film works to culminate in single frame compositions. A selection of these slides can be seen in *New Utopia and Light Fracture by Luther Price*.

About the Book:

LUTHER PRICE came to Visual Studies Workshop as a visiting artist in 2017 to give a week-long workshop on handmade film. Though the workshop ended tumultuously, Price maintained a sporadic and sometimes fraught correspondence with VSW Press Editor Tate Shaw. The project was temporarily tabled, and Price died in 2020 at the age of 58. The project was continued posthumously as intended by the artist and VSW Press.

New Utopia and Light Fracture by Luther Price includes images derived from the depths of Price’s 35mm collages, representing some of the most accomplished work of the artist’s career. The sparse text in the book comes solely from Price’s messages to Shaw over a two year period.

VSW PRESS offers an enhanced eBook companion to this publication, which provides access to view both series of 35mm slides digitally.

Perfect bound softcover
6.5 x 8.5 inches, 150 pages
109 color photographs
ISBN 89822-212-5
\$50.00

To order: <https://www.vsw.org/publications/vsw-press/>

About the Tour:

TARA MERENDA NELSON, VSW Curator and Managing Editor for the VSW Press, will give a brief talk on the book and present both sets of slides on 35mm slide projectors at the following events.

Tara is a filmmaker, curator, programmer and lecturer working with film and digital media. At VSW Tara oversees the cataloging, preservation and interpretation of the VSW collections. She is the lead programmer for the VSW Salon, and the Managing Editor of VSW Press. Recent publications from VSW Press's Film Art Book (FAB) imprint include: *Bouquets 11-20: Notebooks by Rose Lowder* (2018); *Measuring Time by Ephraim Asili* (2020); *Feral Domestic by Dani and Sheilah ReStack* (2022)

Tour Schedule:

Tuesday March 5, 7 pm: Alternative Cinema Series, Colgate University
Little Hall, Hamilton, NY 13346, USA

[Tickets](#)

Friday March 8, 8 pm: Pittsburgh Sound + Image, Eberle Studios, Pittsburgh PA
229 E 9th Avenue, Homestead, PA 15120

[Tickets](#)

Saturday March 16, 1 pm: LA Filmforum, Los Angeles CA
2220 Arts + Archives, 2220 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90057

[Tickets](#)

Sunday March 24, 7:30 pm: San Francisco Cinematheque, San Francisco CA
CounterPulse, 80 Turk St, San Francisco, CA 94102

[Tickets](#)

Thursday, March 28, 7 pm: Block Cinema, Northwestern University
Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive Evanston, IL 60208

[Tickets](#)

Media Contact: Mariclare Hulbert mariclare.hulbert@gmail.com

[Sample book images available here.](#) Additional images available.

All images © Luther Price and Visual Studies Workshop

About Visual Studies Workshop: Visual Studies Workshop nurtures experimental and expansive approaches to photography and media arts, and builds community among artists and the public through exhibitions, publications and residencies. VSW was founded in 1969 in

Rochester, NY by artist and curator Nathan Lyons (1930–2016), and became one of the earliest independent, not-for-profit, artist-run spaces in the country. More than 50 years later, the organization's mission is reflected in its core programs: VSW Salon, Project Space Artist Residencies, and VSW Press. In support of VSW programs, the organization holds photography and moving image research collections and an art library for artists, critics and the general public to explore, research and reuse. vsw.org

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