



## *Stu Levy: Landscapes and Grid-Portraits*

March 1 - June 1, 2024

Photographer Stu Levy was born in 1948 in the North Avondale neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio. He attended Walnut Hills High School and the University of Cincinnati undergraduate and Medical Schools, before establishing a family medical practice in Portland, Oregon, where he still resides. His Cincinnati years are marked in part by his guitar work for the short-lived psychedelic rock band Surdy Greebus and photographing local and national bands performing in town.

An encounter with an Ansel Adams photography exhibition in 1975 led to Levy's building a home darkroom and pursuing the goal of learning how to make a fine print. In 1979 he took an Ansel Adams workshop and within two years was an assistant instructor for Adams' workshops in Yosemite and Carmel and a workshop teacher at the Ansel Adams Gallery. By 1982 he'd begun exhibiting his photographs, with exhibitions at Camerawork Gallery in Portland and Silver Image in Seattle. Three years later, camping in Utah, he was attempting to photograph something too big for a single photograph and hit on the idea of making multiple photographs then butting together the 4x5" prints as a grid. He decided to concentrate this photo method on portraits, enabling multiple appearances of his subjects over extended periods of time, adding a fourth dimension to the two dimensional black and white photographs into which nature's three dimensions had been compressed.

Stu Levy's photographs are now held in more than two dozen institutional collections including The Center for Creative Photography (Tucson), the Cincinnati Art Museum, George Eastman House (Rochester, NY), High Museum of Art (Atlanta), Museum of Contemporary Photography (Chicago), Museum of Photographic Arts (San Diego), Portland Art Museum, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Seattle Art Museum and the Wilson Centre for Photography (London, UK), and have been published as two monographs.

Stu Levy's Iris exhibition is curated by Iris's curator William Messer.

Stu Levy will give an in-person **Artists' Talk, Sunday, April 28 at 5 PM** (and will be at Iris much of the afternoon for informal interactions)

Iris BookCafe and Gallery is an Over-the-Rhine oasis serving fresh and local food, selling used, rare and collectible books and vinyl LP records and hosting regular exhibitions of fine photography. For more information contact Julie Fay at (513) 260-8434 or Iris at (513) 381- BOOK (2886)

Iris Book Cafe and Gallery, 1331 Main Street, Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati | Hours: Monday & Wednesday through Saturday, 9AM-5PM; Sunday 10AM-5PM

front photograph *Rainforest, Hawaii, 1989*

