

JOAN LYONS

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 10, 2-5pm

Guided Tour of the Exhibition with Joan Lyons: January 10, 3pm

Exhibition Dates: January 10 – February 28, 2026

Stephen Bulger Gallery is pleased to announce our representation of Joan Lyons (American, b. 1937, Brooklyn, NY) with a solo exhibition featuring examples of work made over six decades. Since the 1960s, Lyons has been a key figure and influence in the photography scene in Rochester, New York. Working in printmaking, photography, and artists' books, she creates innovative work that incorporates both historical and contemporary processes. Her fascination with the people and objects that surround her, along with her desire to challenge the influence of traditional photography through a feminist lens result in Lyons drawing her private life into her artistic practice. Her artwork moves well beyond the Black & White printing that once dominated the photographic academy.

Our exhibition features work from ten of Lyons' key photographic projects and a wide range of media, including antiquated photographic processes, photograms, offset lithography, photo-quilt making, pinhole photography, xerography, screen printing, and digital prints. Her technical skill enables her to develop complex processes using a variety of optical devices and print techniques.

In a 1982 artist statement, Lyons wrote: "I work through complexity to something simple and direct. This distillation process becomes more evident as time goes on. I work at those things that are evident; how I see, not conventions of seeing."

Our exhibition will include seminal work from over fifty years of artistic production, including *Untitled (bedspread)*, 1969; *Prom*, 1975; *Women's Portrait Series*, 1974–1979; the portfolio *Presences*, 1980; *Happy Birthday, August* 1986; *Domestic Accumulations*, 2016–2025; and *Land(landscape)scapes*, 2010–2020.

Lyons completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Alfred University, New York (1957), and a Master of Fine Arts at SUNY Buffalo, New York (1973). Since 1963, her work has been collected by major institutions worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the DeCordova Museum, Lincoln; the Arts Council of Great Britain; the Center for Creative Photography, Tucson; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Sevilla; the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto; the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. Her work is held in numerous permanent collections, among them the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Minneapolis Institute of Art; the Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena; the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; the Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven; the DeCordova Museum, Lincoln; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. Lyons has published over thirty editions of her artist's books since 1972. A retrospective exhibition, *JOAN LYONS*, was organized by the Memorial Art Gallery, University of Rochester, and presented from February 25 to August 13, 2023.

In addition to her artistic practice, Lyons was the Founding Director of the influential Visual Studies Workshop Press (1972–2004). Under her leadership, VSW Press played a central role in the evolution and definition of the field of artist's books over the past six decades, publishing more than 450 titles. Lyons is the editor of the highly influential *Artist's Books: A Critical Anthology and Sourcebook* (1986, 1988, 1991,

1993, 1995), as well as the annotated bibliography *Artist's Books: Visual Studies Workshop Press, 1972–2008*.

Joan Lyons will be on view January 10 – February 28, 2026, at Stephen Bulger Gallery, 1356 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON, M6J 1Y2, Canada. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 AM to 6 PM. For more information about the exhibition or general inquiries, please contact the gallery at info@bulgergallery.com or 416-504-0575.