

## **"Portraits in the time of AIDS", a photographic exhibition, to show at UCSD's Grove Gallery**

**January 12, 1989**

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UCSD'S GROVE GALLERY TO SHOW PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION OF "PORTRAITS IN THE TIME OF AIDS."

"You are going through the looking glass and you won't come back..." AIDS minister Father Bill McNichols, S.J., of St. Peter's Church to Rosalind Solomon prior to her photographing the series "Portraits in the Time of Aids."

Photographer Rosalind Solomon of New York has chronicled, in portrait style, people who are living (or have lived) with the disease AIDS. Fiftytwo of the photographs, which she took during 1987, will be on display from March 28 through April 15 in the Grove Gallery at the University of California, San Diego.

Solomon met many of the people she photographed at a series of weekly dinners for people with AIDS, at St. Peter's Church, in New York. Against a background of chatter and piano tunes, she gradually won the trust of several people living with AIDS, who consented to become photographic subjects for this series.

The goal of the series, she said, was "to represent the diverse population of individuals who are touched by AIDS." Solomon chose to shoot her subjects in a classic portrait style rather than a photojournalistic one. The reason, according to Thomas W. Sokolowski, director of the Grey Art Gallery and Study Center (a sponsor), was "to portray the relationship which developed between the photographer and her subject."

Solomon, now in her late fifties, started her career as a photographer in 1968, after traveling in the Orient. She studied with renowned photographer Lisette Model of New York City from 1974-76, and subsequently became an avid world photographer. She has taken part in numerous exhibitions, both solo and group. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship (1979-80), American Institute of Indian Studies fellowships (1981-84), and was a visiting artist at Yale University, Cooper Union College, American University, New York University, State University of New York at Purchase, and Haverford College.

A prolific photographer, Solomon has taken part in numerous exhibits and her work is exhibited in many public and private collections, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Bibliotheque National in Paris. Her photographs of India have been exhibited by the International Museum of Photography at the George Eastman House in Rochester, New York.

Arthur Oilman, executive director of the Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, has written of Solomon's work: "Solomon records the living and the dead but never the defeated or the fully damned. Solomon is an artist who can look upon the face of another in all its truth, reality, and kinship, and love that face; honor it." (Catalog essay, Rosalind Solomon, Earthrites: Photographs from Inside the Third World, The Museum of Photographic Arts, June 1986.)

This exhibition has been organized by the Grey Art Gallery and Study Center at New York University, and has been made possible, in part, with funds provided by the Abby Weed Grey Trust, the Members of the Grey Art Gallery, and UCSD.

The Grove Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Parking at UCSD is free on weekends.

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