Why are we drawn to the hidden and secret?

All of us have a voyeuristic tendency that powers our curiosity. We all have peripheral vision that gathers bits of information from fleeting encounters, overheard conversation and interiors glimpsed through windows.



Michael Mercanti, Kyra, 2006

This exhibition brings together photographs that provide a window into the hidden people and places of Haddonfield that each photographer has chosen to share with us.



Tara Ryan, Batman, 2005

These are, by their very nature, idiosyncratic and secret images pulling us into personal visions of particular situations.



Doug Oswald, Untitled, 2006

The artists are either Haddonfield residents or have close ties to the borough who know and appreciate the attractive public face of the town.



Carlton Read, Untitled, 2006

The work selected for this show depicts their ideas of the "hidden" Haddonfield, unseen or unnoticed by either the casual town visitor or resident.



Jim Sutton, Ripple, 2006

What defines a town? To guests, shoppers and those just passing through it is the facades and public places and public people.



Richard Montemurro, Windows, 2005

But a town's essence is not only the well-known buildings and homes and first impressions. It is the accumulation of almost perceived but still mysterious places and people that provide the depth and permanence of a town's character.

Photographs sate our curiosity. Susan Sontag wrote that photographs alter and enlarge our notions of what is worth looking at and what we have the right to observe.



Norm Hinsey, Untitled, 2005

This exhibition gives the viewer permission to peek into the unavailable and overlooked – to enlarge our notion of what defines Haddonfield.



Mary D'Anella, Men who work, Euclid Ave., 2006



Tom Gralish, Haddonfield Winter: Seen from the sidewalk, 2006

Of course, a photography exhibition has its limits. The photographer Diane Arbus pointed out that "a photograph is a secret about a secret. The more it tells you the less you know."



Kelly Ryan, Ketura, 2004

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November 5 to December 8, 2006

A photography exhibition of Haddonfield interiors and hidden places and people.

Mary D'Anella Tom Gralish
Norm Hinsey Michael Mercanti
Richard Montemurro Doug Oswald
Carlton Read Kelly Ryan
Tara Ryan Jim Sutton

Vintage photographs lent by the Historical Society of Haddonfield, assisted by Jim Selzer



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