

CIVILIAN

ART PROJECTS

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Civilian Art Projects is pleased to present **HARD ART DC 1979**, a traveling exhibition and forthcoming book* of photographs by Lucian Perkins with writing by Alec MacKaye and a contribution by Henry Rollins. The exhibition is curated and edited by photographer and photo editor Lely Constantinople and Jayme McLellan, director of Civilian Art Projects, Washington, DC, with photographs being shown as a group for the first time.

Exhibition on view: November 5 - December 31, 2011.

Opening Reception: Saturday, November 5 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Public hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m.

The story of HARD ART DC 1979:

In 1979, a soon to erupt punk scene took hold in Washington, DC with the Bad Brains, Trenchmouth, Teen Idles, the Untouchables, and the Slickee Boys, among others, at the forefront. Lucian Perkins, later a Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist for the Washington Post, was then a 26-year-old intern who photographed several shows over a pivotal five-month period. Alec MacKaye, then 14, was at most of the shows and appears in Perkins' photographs.

Years later, in 1995, Lely Constantinople was hired by Perkins to manage his extensive photographic collection spanning a twenty-five year career with the Post. While looking through negatives in his basement, she found the punk images and recognized MacKaye, her then boyfriend (now husband). She asked to make contact sheets to show him, thinking he might recognize himself and others, and was surprised by how excited MacKaye was to see the images.



"Those pictures were the holy grail! Not that many people brought cameras to shows then so I always wondered who he was and what happened to the pictures he took. He was at some of the best shows

"MacKaye's text offers an intimate exploration of the moment from two perspectives: that of a fourteen-year-old experiencing music on his own terms for the first time, and a look again at a movement that fueled an underground generation musically and philosophically. His examination is not a nostalgic review of glory days gone, as much as a present conversation about the continuation of a way of thinking that still endures.

HARD ART DC 1979, the exhibition and forthcoming book, is an intimate snapshot of "the time before the time" that punk rock found firm footing in the U.S. Exhibited for the first time as a group, these images capture the cathartic, infectious energy present in any group of people who seek to change their communities through music and art.

This exhibition is scheduled to tour to the Good Children Gallery in New Orleans, LA and Austin, TX for the SXSW Music Festival. More tour dates to come.

* Many thanks to Nick Pimentel, designer of the book, for all of his hard work and energy on the project.

Civilian Art Projects is an art gallery based in Washington, D.C. existing to support the voice and vision of the artist. The gallery is located in the Shaw neighborhood in downtown Washington near many major museums, galleries, and national treasures. For more information, please visit www.civilianartprojects.com.

For more information or high-resolution images, please contact the gallery.

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