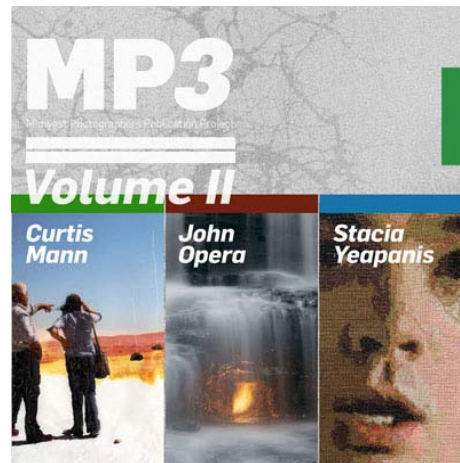




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PRESS RELEASE



***MP3: VOLUME II***  
**MIDWEST PHOTOGRAPHERS PUBLICATION PROJECT**  
**PHOTOGRAPHS BY CURTIS MANN, JOHN OPERA, and**  
**STACIA YEAPANIS**

**Essays by Rod Slemmons, Natasha Egan, and Karen Irvine**

**Book Signing at Art Chicago: Saturday, May 2, 1:00 pm**  
**Accompanying Exhibition on View at Museum of Contemporary**  
**Photography, Chicago, July 17–September 13, 2009**

The second installment of the *Midwest Photographers Publication Project (MP3)* (Aperture May 2009), produced in collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP), Chicago, presents the work of three emerging artists: **Curtis Mann**, **John Opera**, and **Stacia Yeapanis**. For his series *Modifications*, Curtis Mann collects found photographs depicting conflicts in the Middle East and Northern Africa. He then bleaches and scratches the surface of the images, removing information to create new meanings from his source material. John Opera investigates the uncanny in nature. Moving between representation and geometric abstraction, his works reference historical notions of the sublime and landscape as well as modernist photography. Stacia Yeapanis's interest in modes of entertainment and hobbies has led her to explore the simulated-reality computer game, *The Sims 2*, and the craft of embroidery, as she stitches and then photographs television screen captures of characters in states of distress.



**CURTIS MANN** (born in Dayton, Ohio, 1979) received an MFA from Columbia College, Chicago, in 2008. He was a 2007 Santa Fe Award nominee.

**JOHN OPERA** (born in Buffalo, New York, 1975) received an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2005. His photographs were recently featured at Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago.

**STACIA YEAPANIS** (born in Newport News, Virginia, 1977) received an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2006. Her work is in the collection of MoCP and the Rhizome Artbase online archive.

Introductory essays by **ROD SLEMMONS**, director, MoCP; **NATASHA EGAN**, associate director and curator, MoCP; and **KAREN IRVINE**, curator, MoCP.

**Copublished with the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago**

**The first Volume of this series was released in October 2006 and included Brian Ulrich, Kelli Connell and Justin Newhall.**

**Exhibition Schedule:**

Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, July 17–September 13, 2009

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**Aperture**—located in New York’s Chelsea art district—is a world-renowned non-profit publisher and exhibition space dedicated to promoting photography in all its forms. Aperture was founded in 1952 by photographers Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Barbara Morgan, and Minor White; historian Beaumont Newhall; and writer/curator Nancy Newhall, among others. These visionaries created a new quarterly periodical, *Aperture* magazine, to foster both the development and the appreciation of the photographic medium and its practitioners. In the 1960s, Aperture expanded to include the publication of books (over five hundred to date) that comprise one of the most comprehensive and innovative libraries in the history of photography and art. Aperture’s programs now include artist lectures and panel discussions, limited-edition photographs, and traveling exhibitions that show at major museums and arts institutions in the U.S. and internationally.

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