

March 16, 2023

PRESS RELEASE**Deborah Luster: *One Big Self***

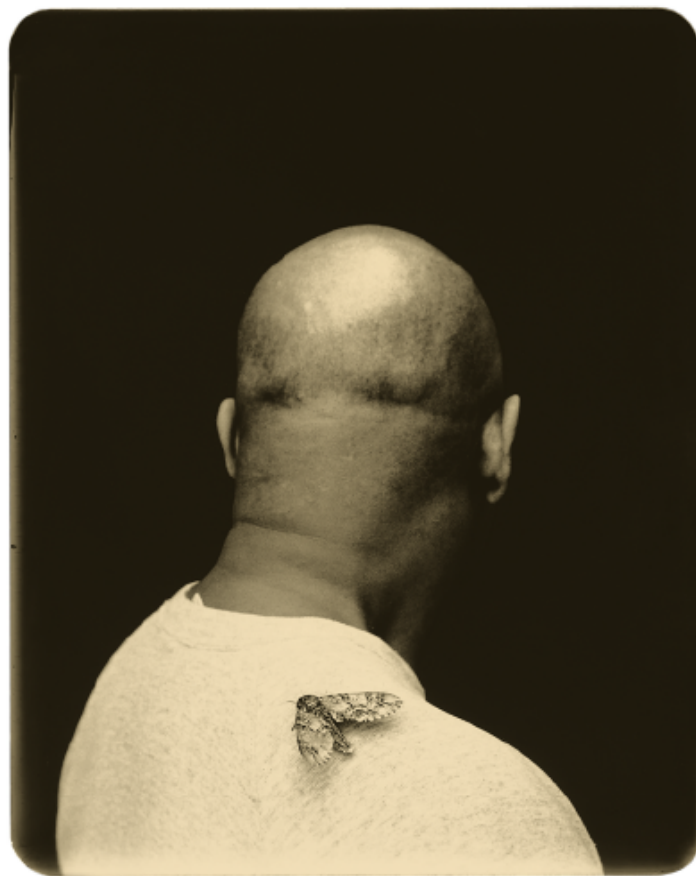
Exhibition Dates: April 1–June 17, 2023
Opening Reception: Saturday, April 1 from 6–8 pm
Gallery Location: 432 Julia Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 10 am–5 pm
Contact Info: 504.522.1999; www.arthurorogergallery.com

The Arthur Roger Gallery is pleased to present *One Big Self*, an exhibition of photographs by Deborah Luster. The exhibition will be on view at the Arthur Roger Gallery, located at 432 Julia Street, from April 1–June 17, 2023. The gallery will host an opening reception with the artist in attendance, Saturday, April 1 from 5–8 pm.

One Big Self, the artist's second solo show with the gallery, will feature photographs of "people who happened to be in prison" in Louisiana, including the maximum-security penitentiary at Angola. Luster began the *One Big Self* series in 1998 in the aftermath of her mother's unsolved murder. She became obsessed with the effects of violence and crime on families and society, and she sought to create a visual record of the lives of inmates in the American prison system. Luster made numerous trips to Angola over the course of several years. She used a large-format camera to create portraits of the inmates, which she printed using the traditional wet plate collodion process. The full set of 249 one-of-a-kind photographs was acquired by the National Gallery of Art as part of their permanent collection.

The *One Big Self* series humanizes the inmates and reveals the complex realities of incarceration. In her tome, with the same title, Luster's photographs are accompanied by excerpts from interviews she conducted with the inmates, which provide further insight into their lives and experiences. In the exhibition, the portraits are accompanied by a silent film of an incarcerated man tap dancing in Angola's solitary confinement.

The title of the series, "One Big Self," comes from a line in a poem by the Louisiana poet and activist, George Whitman. The poem speaks to the idea that all people are connected, regardless of their circumstances. *One Big Self* humanizes the inmates of Angola and encourages viewers to consider their own relationships to crime and punishment.



"Count", Angola, Louisiana, 1999 | Archival pigment print on Kozo paper
9 x 7 inches image | 12 3/4 x 11 inches paper

For more information please contact the Arthur Roger Gallery at 504.522.1999 or visit our website at arthurorogergallery.com.