

FFOTO

ARNAUD MAGGS

(b. 1926, d. 2012)

Born in Montréal Arnaud Maggs' early career as a graphic designer and fashion photographer transitioned into a fine art practice in his late 40s. Central to his process was an enduring interest with *systems of identification*, and a fascination with ephemera and how collections are compiled and documented. Maggs' outstanding bodies of work would see him counted among the most respected established Canadian artists. When Maggs died at age 86 it was with the knowledge that his art had gained the widespread admiration of collectors and institutions, and enjoyed overwhelmingly positive critical recognition.

“My work has been based largely on systems of identification, sometimes of my own invention. Along the way I have referenced the history of photography. Nadar, Alphonse Bertillon, Eugène Atget, André Kertész, August Sander and Walker Evans are all photographers I have drawn on in one way or another. I enjoy exploring the filmic aspects of still photography, and the idea of editing work within the camera. I also acknowledge the technical considerations of analog photography, by showing accidents: light leaks, clip scratches, inaccurate positioning of film, multiple exposures, and all manner of things unforeseen. I cherish the procedures and mechanics surrounding film. To me, the print is an object, the end product of an amazing invention. The whole endeavor is magical, magical and mystifying.”

ARNAUD MAGGS 2012

from *Arnaud Maggs*, published by Steidl / Scotiabank Photography Award