

NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Norm Diamond
Doug's Gym
The Last of its Kind

Texts by Norm Diamond, Roy Flukinger
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A photographic time travel to one of the last old-school American gyms

Norm Diamond photographed the last months of a dilapidated, yet beautiful old gym in Dallas, Texas. These stark images could have come from another era. They evoke themes of memory and loss. No modern gym looks like this. The owner, Doug Eidd, a grizzled 87-year-old, opened the gym in 1962. He could have emerged from a time capsule as well. His members did not care that the gym was run down or that Doug smoked cigars most of the day. They respected his expertise and loved the casual atmosphere he created. Although Doug was still fit, he did not resemble the muscle-bound figure of his youth. He knew that time would one day engulf him and the gym.

This came to pass in the spring of 2018 when he was forced to close the gym on short notice. Diamond stayed to photograph the removal of the equipment as *Doug's Gym* drifted into memory.

After a long career as an interventional radiologist, **Norm Diamond** is now a fine art photographer based in Dallas, Texas. He has studied with Jay Maisel, Debbie Fleming Caffery, Keith Carter, Arno Minkinen, Aline Smithson, Sean Kernan, Susan Burnstine, and, from 2013 to the present, Cig Harvey has mentored him. He was a finalist in the Photolucida Critical Mass competitions of 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019. In 2017, Daylight Books published his monograph *What Is Left Behind – Stories from Estate Sales*. Prints from this series have been shown in multiple museums and galleries, including the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, the Griffin Museum of Photography, and the Houston Center for Photography. The Afterimage Gallery in Dallas, TX, and the Cumberland Gallery in Nashville, TN, have hosted exhibitions of this work.

»Doug's Gym is a love story. It is an arrow to the heart.«
 – Cig Harvey, Photographer

»Norm Diamond is a committed and experienced photographer. [...] You may never have set foot in Doug's Gym, never have joined up, never have worked out a fitness program with Doug, never have been coached by the man himself. But Norm succeeds in capturing both the atmosphere and the spirit of the place itself.«
 – Roy Flukinger, Independent Curator Emeritus

»Norm Diamond's photographs capture the ordinary, sentimental, heartbreaking, and poignant nature of places, objects and individuals. In the same discerning manner he employed as an interventional radiologist, Diamond hones in on the small but significant details that represent the whole. Diamond's pictures of Doug's Gym are neither celebratory nor elegiac. They are objective, richly informative, visually captivating, and very touching.«
 – Cathy Kimball, Executive Director, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art

Exhibition
Doug's Gym, Afterimage Gallery, Dallas, TX
 Spring 2020

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Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com or pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com
 Kehrer Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
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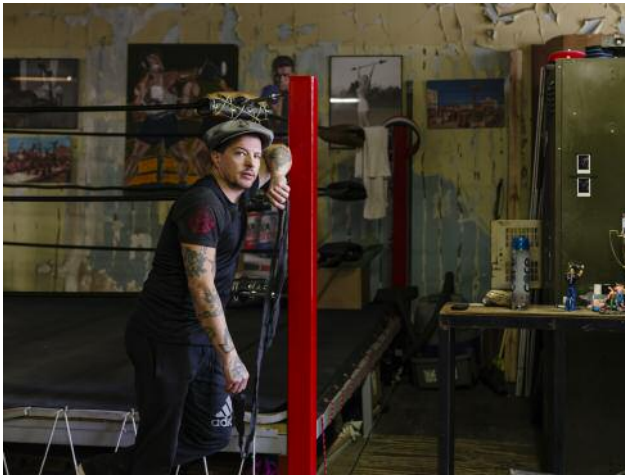
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