

NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

## Jeffrey A. Wolin

### Pigeon Hill: Then + Now

Texts by Keith F. Davis, Jean-Louis Poitevin, Jeffrey A. Wolin

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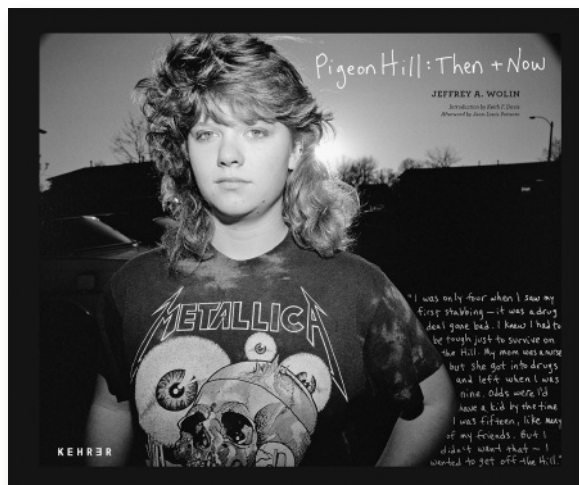
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#### The residents of a housing project in Indiana were re-photographed with a time gap up to thirty years

From 1987–1991, Jeffrey Wolin made hundreds of portraits showing residents of his city's housing projects, known as »Pigeon Hill«. At the time there was much discussion about the problems of the welfare state with crime, drug abuse and enduring poverty. In 2010, a meth dealer had murdered a woman and her picture appeared in the local newspaper. Wolin recognized her as the subject of several of his earlier portraits. He decided to locate the residents of the projects that he had photographed before and to show how their lives were going, a full generation later. Over the past 5 years he re-photographed over 100 individuals. The economic condition of many remains poor, while others now live solidly middle-class lives. More than a few are firmly entrenched in the criminal justice system, usually for non-violent crimes such as lack of payment of child support or drug use. America has the highest incarceration rate of any country in the world. Wolin's focus is on the faces themselves paired with the earlier portraits. One can see the effects of the passing of time and the ways in which experiences in life – good and bad – are written into these open and expressive faces.

*Twenty years—enough time for a baby to become a man proud of his strength or for a young and attractive woman to become a woman whose face we can read like an open book in which her destiny would be written down. Enough as well for liberty to be turned into prison, or the other way around. Nonetheless, when we look at these pictures, and despite these pivotal events, which are told as briefly as a confession, it is impossible not to feel that the notion of time is in some way biased, even false. In any case it is at least without connection to what is really experienced.* (Jean-Louis Poitevin)

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**Jeffrey A. Wolin** is Ruth N. Halls Professor of Photography at Indiana University and Director of the Center for Integrative Photographic Studies. Wolin has published 6 monographs including *Written in Memory: Portraits of the Holocaust*, *Inconvenient Stories: Vietnam War Veterans*, and *Stone Country*.

His work has been shown at the Art Institute of Chicago, International Center of Photography in New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, Museum of Modern Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among others. His photographs are in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Houston Museum of Fine Arts; Art Institute of Chicago; Cleveland Museum of Art; New York Public Library; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris; and Museum of Modern Art, New York.

#### Exhibitions

Pigeon Hill: Then & Now  
Maison de la Photographie, Lille, France  
March 3 – April 14, 2017

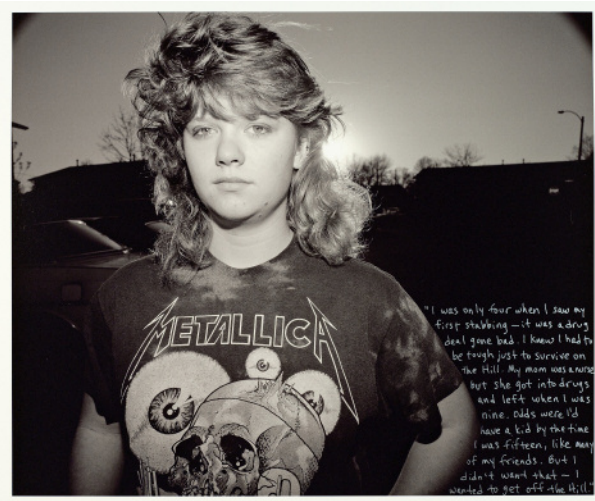
Galerie Paul Verbeeck Van Dyk, Antwerp  
Summer 2017

Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago  
August – November 2017

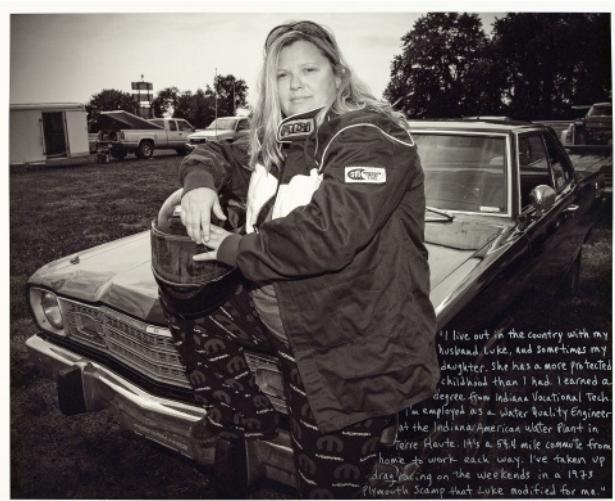
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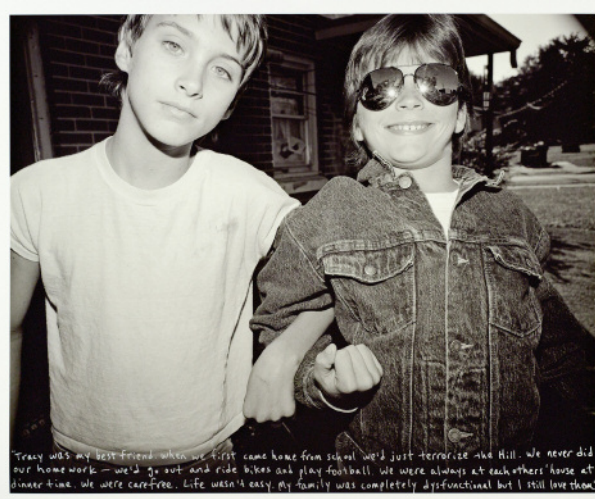
## Press images



1. Wendi on Illinois Circle, Pigeon Hill, 1990  
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2. Wendi at Lyons Raceway, 2013  
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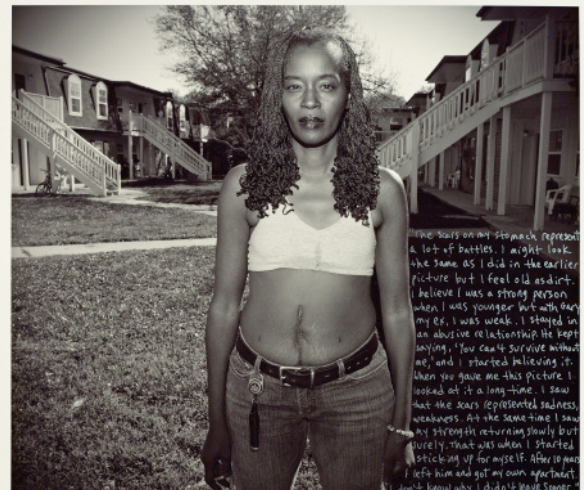
3. Robert with Tracy, Pigeon Hill, 1989  
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4. Robert, North Oolitic Drive, Pigeon Hill, 2013  
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5. Kym, Pigeon Hill, 1988  
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6. Kym with Caesarean Scar, Woodland Springs Apartments, 2011  
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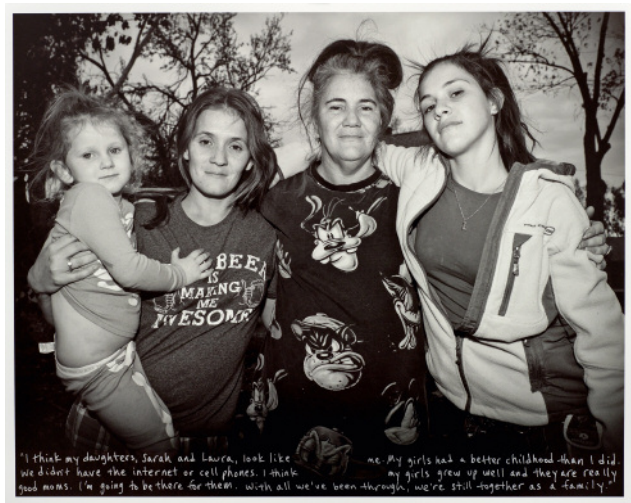
7. Danny, Pigeon Hill, 1988  
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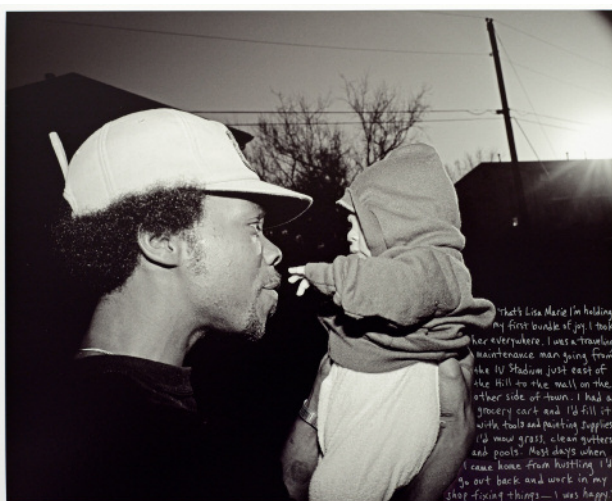
8. 8. Danny at the 7-Eleven, 2012  
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9. Loretta Holding Sarah as Misty Looks On, Pigeon Hill, 1989  
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10. Loretta with Daughters Sarah and Laura and Granddaughter Madison, Dixie Street, 2011 © Jeffrey A. Wolin



11. Jerrold and Oldest Daughter, Pigeon Hill, 1989  
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12. Jerrold and Youngest Daughter, 2014  
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