

THE WEEK AHEAD

Jan. 8 — 14



Courtesy the artist; Stephen Wirtz Gallery, San Francisco; and Yossi Milo Gallery, New York.

"New Orleans, L.A. 2008, 2009" by Doug Rickard, from "New Photography 2011" at the Museum of Modern Art; the show closes on Jan. 16.

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Art

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Art may be eternal, but exhibitions come and go like mayflies. And early January, as the new year finds its foal-like legs, is a perfect time to catch up on shows that may have been missed before they're gone for good. One such is "NEW PHOTOGRAPHY 2011," an exhibition of six artists at the Museum of Modern Art that closes Jan. 16. The works include images from Africa, China, Turkey and blasted American cityscapes and, not so surprisingly in our post-postmodern era, they are often photographs about the nature of photography.

Moyra Davey, for example, burnishes her analog photos with a postal patina. She folds them like envelopes, mails them off, retrieves them, then displays them complete with the Postal Service scars and tattoos that they've picked up on their journeys. Using Google Maps and various digital tools Doug Rickard creates his images of urban poverty and despair without ever stepping foot in the desolate places he depicts; he ends up being a street photographer who doesn't have to leave home. And the Chinese artist Zhang Dali continues his project "A Second History," in which he uncovers the role played by photographs in the state propaganda produced during the rule of Mao Zedong. In these photographs he documents how pictures were doctored — in the pre-Photoshop age — by state censors, who tried to make history tilt in their favor cutting or adding people to photographs. (212) 708-9400, moma.org.

