

Long Life Cool White: Photographs by Moyra Davey
February 28 through June 30, 2008
Fogg Art Museum

With this installation of forty works, *Long Life Cool White: Photographs by Moyra Davey* is the artist's first major museum exhibition. An artist and a writer for the past twenty years, Davey has taken modest photographs of the typically overlooked—newspapers, books, money, empty bottles, and the accumulation of objects on the tops of refrigerators. She remains fascinated by the ability of the photograph to stop time, to focus attention, and prick us into a state of increased awareness about the everyday life that both surrounds us and that we are immersed in. With an interest in traditional photography's reliance upon the notion of accident, her work stands as a passionate, but quiet, rejoinder to the hyper-staged quality of much contemporary photography, which she sees as bound up with the intense commercialization of the art world.

Davey is a subtle chronicler of the domestic interior, capturing the dust under the bed, stacks of VHS tapes and records, and other analogue objects that have been relegated to historical relics of our digital age. Her interest in psychoanalysis emerges in many of these works through her fixation on the obsessive nature of accumulation, the psychic charge invested in objects, and the photographic image as a kind of neurotic trace of the everyday. Davey's essay *Notes on Photography and Accident*, written for the exhibition catalogue, is a rumination on the themes of photography, death, suicide, and time that run through the writings of Walter Benjamin, Roland Barthes, Janet Malcolm, and Susan Sontag.

Organized by Helen Molesworth, Maisie K. and James R. Houghton Curator of Contemporary Art.

Moyra Davey's video, *50 Minutes*, will be on view in the exhibition *Two or Three Things I Know About Her*, also curated by Helen Molesworth, next door at the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, 24 Quincy Street, Cambridge, from February 28 through April 6, 2008.