

# B&W

W H A T ' S D E V E L O P I N G

NEWS & PREVIEWS — CONTINUED

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P U B L I S H I N G & G A L L E R Y N E W S

## DISFARMER: THE VINTAGE PRINTS

■ As a resident studio photographer in tiny Heber Springs, Arkansas, the legendary Mike



Mike Disfarmer, *Untitled*.  
Courtesy the Edwynn Houk  
Gallery, New York.

Disfarmer captured the faces of the American heartland as the Great Depression yielded to World War Two, and the sons of the farm donned their country's uniform and headed off to war. Born Mike Meyer in 1884, he legally changed his name to Disfarmer to disassociate himself not only from the farming community in which he lived and worked, but from his own family—claiming that a tornado had accidentally blown him onto the Meyer family farm as a baby.

Previously, Disfarmer's work was known only from a cache of glass-plate negatives that had been salvaged from his studio after his death. Enter the passionate and tenacious collector Michael P. Mattis, who conceived of what he calls a "historical reclamation project," to ferret out, and purchase, all available vintage photographs by Disfarmer.

The forthcoming (Nov) publication from powerHouse Books, *Disfarmer: The Vintage Prints*, is the culmination of a two-year project in which Mattis led a dedicated team of researchers to scour "every family album in every home along every dirt road" in Cleburne County, Arkansas. With essays by Mattis, Edwynn Houk, Richard B. Woodward, and Gerd Sander, this book is certainly an essential tool for the study and re-evaluation of the life and work of this American eccentric.

Some 95 vintage photographs comprise the exhibition, *Disfarmer: The Vintage Prints*, on view from September 8 through October 15 at the Edwynn Houk Gallery.

POWERHOUSE BOOKS continues to celebrate 10 years of power book publishing at their offices and gallery, both located at 68 Charlton Street, New York, 212.604.9074, [www.powerHouseBooks.com](http://www.powerHouseBooks.com)

THE EDWYNN HOUK GALLERY represents both Danny Lyon and Mike Disfarmer photographs. The gallery is located at 745 Fifth Avenue, New York City, phone 212.750.7070, [www.houkgallery.com](http://www.houkgallery.com)

\$7.95US \$9.95CAN



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