

ARTFORUM

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PREVIEWS

HOUSTON

**Amy Blakemore:
Photographs 1988–2008**

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON
May 10–September 13
Curated by Alison de Lima Greene

Amy Blakemore's photographs—of discarded shoes, gathering clouds, a child in a crowd—proffer open-ended narratives. That dreamlike opacity is augmented by her use of low-tech Diana cameras, which produce pictures with softly focused edges and blurred resolutions. The MFAH's selection of thirty-six works from the past two decades—the artist's first midcareer survey—tracks Blakemore's transition from black-and-white to color, and considers how her casual snapshot aesthetic is married to a conceptual engagement with photography's capacity to distort memory. The photographs are atmospheric in several senses: They capture a mood but also depict a hazy quality of light that feels related to the distinctively viscous air of Houston, where Blakemore has lived since 1985. A catalogue featuring essays by Alison de Lima Greene, Whitney curator Chrissie Iles, and others accompanies the show.

—*Julia Bryan-Wilson*



Left: Cy Twombly, *Untitled*, 2007, acrylic on wood, 8' 3 3/16" x 18' 1 3/16".
Right: Amy Blakemore, *Shoes*, 1998, color photograph, 19 x 19".