

> information that is required to provide context to the images. It may be an incredibly strong photograph but if we don't know what it's of, how does it work as a document?

These are exciting times for documentary photography. While the internet provides access to a wealth of photographic imagery that would otherwise be viewed by only a very limited audience, it is also taking over the role of announcing breaking news. It is very possible that newspapers will respond by dedicating increasing space to comment and analysis. We may hope that in this way the extended picture essay might find resurgence in print.

Documentary photography is testament to the dramatic events of our age and the mundane particulars of how we live; it records detailed moments in time and space for posterity. The images that photographers create now not only bring situations to our attention that we are removed from physically, they also provide a record that will be used by future generations to understand their history.

