

Fundraiser to net \$10,000 for Artists impacted by Covid-19 crisis.

Sally Stein offers this backstory:

When my old friend and occasional collaborator Stephen Callis shared his new still life composed while compelled like the rest of us to stay at home, I laughed so loud that even Jinx the rescue dog awoke from his snooze. I emailed Steve back that he should title his study of tp “Roll Model” while also declaring I wanted to acquire a print. In the middle of my 70th year, I’ve sworn off adding more pictures to my collection... but for this exquisite emblem of the crazy crisis, I was prepared to make an exception.



Not just ignoring firm resolutions to only winnow, I already envisioned a place for it in my downstairs bathroom. I knew once framed and installed it would generate conversations galore for any and all using the w.c. in the future. Not just about our memories of the extended crisis but also how we know, but always need reminding, that really good artists can make pictures from anything, toilet paper included, when they apply their wits to composition and lighting. And the “noir” lighting and parodically pathetic sense of distance and isolation in this picture makes it a most succinct commentary on our fears and misplaced obsessions.

Then I thought, Think Bigger, think a ltd. edition fundraiser for a worthy crisis cause with a finely printed archival edition of 50 prints in 8.5x11” format that could be mailed easily once a donation was made for \$200 per print. I proposed to back the idea with the materials plus postage and Steve generously agreed to print the edition. (Steve and I previously worked on a limited edition portfolio of Vivian Maier negatives that my husband had collected, which so far has netted over \$40,000 for a Cal Arts documentary fund in memory of Allan Sekula that supports student projects.)

Because we thought that this kind of still life might strike many as too edgy, we decided to pitch this print fundraiser to art lovers who most readily would get and appreciate the irony of this motif along with its brilliant execution. Our plan solidified when we learned of the new fund established by US Artists to aid artists hit hard by the Covid crisis (many of whom express their love of art not only with their ongoing personal work but also by working full or part-time in art institutions that have furloughed large numbers of their employees).

So now less than a week after hatching the idea, we launch the edition with a view of “Roll Model” for all to enjoy online plus these specs for the signed and numbered set of 50 prints. The image is printed by the photographer 7”x 9” on 8.5”x 11” Canson Infinity Platine Fibre Rag 100% Cotton paper in a signed and numbered edition of 50. Each archival fine print, produced with Canon Lucia archival pigment ink, is offered for \$200. (careful archival packaging and domestic mailing included) with all proceeds benefitting Artist Relief Fund.

The affordably priced collector’s edition is destined to sell out quickly (what better image to hang in the bathroom of a photo collector!). So do not wait to support the Artist Relief Fund by acquiring this very topical fine print that both reflects and comments on these strange times. Stephen Callis and curatorial collaborator Sally Stein will be ready to safely pack and mail the archival prints as soon as they are notified of your \$200. contribution.* [Use this link to donate to Artist Relief and receive your print of “Roll Model”](https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/fundraiser-for-artists-impacted-by-covid-19-crisis). <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/fundraiser-for-artists-impacted-by-covid-19-crisis>

Photographer Stephen Callis is best known for his extended documentary studies in the southern California region where he grew up and also received his MFA at Cal Arts. In the 1990s, his photography focused on the Los Angeles River and its network of historic bridges. In 2007, after a brushfire scorched Griffith Park, he documented the devastation of the park. In concert with artists Rubén Ortiz Torres, Leslie Ernst and Sandra Ramirez, he collaborated on two Spanish/English photonovelas documenting the work of janitors and housekeepers in their struggle to win union recognition, the series published as photonovelas served as an organizing tool while also being widely exhibited in California galleries. Callis is currently Professor of Photography at Moorpark Community College. Collectors of his photography include the Paine Webber Photography Collection, Los Angeles Central Library and private collections.

Sally Stein is a professor emerita of art & photo history at UCI, longtime resident of L.A., who remains active in the photo scene and as a writer on photography.

*Your contribution is not tax deductible given the value of the limited edition photograph you are receiving.

DO NOT DELAY! THIS TERRIFIC PRINT WILL SELL OUT & NOW MORE THAN EVER MANY GIFTED ARTISTS NEED TIMELY SUPPORT

For more info on this emergency print fundraiser, contact surfstein@gmail.com &/or stephencallis135@gmail.com

For more info on the newly formed Artist Relief Fund with major backing from national arts grant makers, go to <https://www.artistrelief.org/>