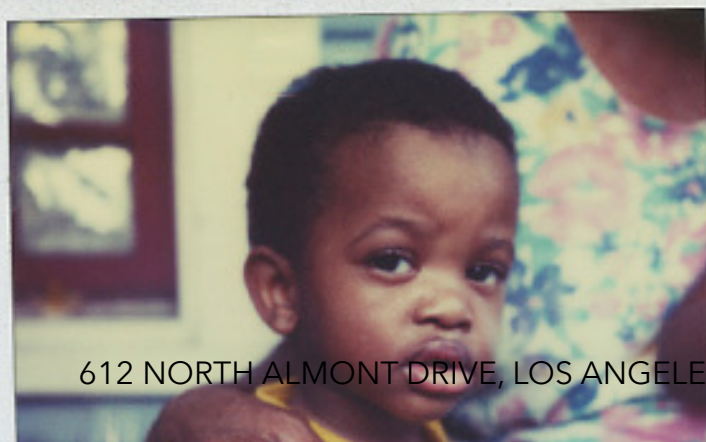


M+B

20 YEAR PHOTO  
ANNIVERSARY



MIKE BRODIE

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## MIKE BRODIE

As part of our summer series celebrating M+B's 20-year anniversary, we're proud to spotlight the work of Mike Brodie. While Mike first began photography with a Polaroid camera in 2004, at the age of 19, capturing unique people and gritty, raw situations during his life hopping freight trains—it quickly became clear that he was far more than a fly-by-night kid with a passing interest in snapping pictures. Mike caught the attention of the art world as an autodidact savant of authentic photography, possessing true, raw talent and his career took off.

As Mike grew up and pursued a parallel career as a diesel mechanic—working on train and later tugboat engines—his photography continued. His eye for framing subjects matured, as did his subject matter. Friends traveling America by freight train and hitchhiking were now captured in 35mm photographs that looked like stills from a film that didn't exist. This body of 35mm work led to Mike being awarded the Baum Award for American Emerging Artists. He continues to create work that captivates and surprises his audience, earning comparisons to some of the greatest photographers in the American tradition. He is also the subject and collaborator of the forthcoming documentary/film essay *Slack* and has begun exploring moving pictures.

Like any great artist, Mike has distinct creative periods—but his Polaroids are what started it all. Not only do they possess the wild naïveté of his earliest creative phase, they function as unique art objects that feel more like photographic paintings of his subjects—works that stand alone and can never be fully replicated.



# MIKE BRODIE

Mike Brodie began photographing in 2004, when he was given a Polaroid SX-70 around the same time he started hopping freight trains and living the life of a wandering young punk. As he traveled the country, he met fascinating people living through difficult situations and took their portraits, revealing the beauty of those existing on the margins of American society.

In 2006, Brodie's first solo exhibition was presented at M+B in Los Angeles, introducing his Polaroid work to wide acclaim and establishing him as a significant new voice in photography. Soon after, he switched to shooting 35mm and experienced a surge of creativity, earning him comparisons to photographers like Robert Frank and William Eggleston. Yet Mike maintained a distinct artistic voice, capturing the attention of both the art world and everyday fans.

Brodie returned to M+B in 2013 with *A Period of Juvenile Prosperity*, an exhibition coinciding with the release of his critically lauded first monograph of the same title, which became one of the decade's most celebrated photography books. Recently, he released a new monograph, *Failing*, which explores the darker side of a life of fast living. He has also begun taking photos with disposable cameras and is the subject of Cyril Lachauer's documentary film *Slack* (premiering in Berlin, September 2025), which examines Brodie's creative process while grieving the death of an ex-girlfriend who died of a drug overdose.

His life has been further transformed by the recent birth of his son, and he continues to capture the beauty he sees around him. While Mike's perspective on life changes and adapts, and he tries new formats like exploring 35mm cinema photography, his impeccable eye for artistically framing a photo seems to only improve with age.



Mike Brodie | *Monica & Mama* // Oakland, California, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



**Mike Brodie** | *Self Portrait*, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Buckner Fant Dethrage #4*, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | Vanessa // San Francisco, California (diptych), 2005  
two Polaroid photograph, unique | each 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *QUIT*, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Mulberry, Oakland, California, 2005*  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Untitled #1*, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)





Mike Brodie | *Sarah Derelict* // Oakland, California (diptych), 2005  
two Polaroid photograph, unique | each 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Yoni Kifle, Portland, Oregon, 2005*  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Allison and Attica, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2005*  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Gypsum factory, West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2005*  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)





Mike Brodie | *Four-wheeler accident*, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Allen, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2005*  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Ali's hand*, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *All-Stars*, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Pistol, Somewhere in Texas*, 2012  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Dying alley cat, Denver, Colorado, 2005*  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | Roy, Pensacola, Florida, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Untitled #2*, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)





Mike Brodie | *Allenique*, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Allison and Attica, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2005*  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *King Cobra, Ash Fork, Arizona, 2005*  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Instructions for operating a forklift 2/2*, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)



Mike Brodie | *Instructions for operating a forklift 2/2*, 2005  
Polaroid photograph, unique | 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches (8.9 x 10.8 cm)