

DANNY LYON (b. 1942) Mission. South Dakota

Signed in black ink, lower right, "Danny Lyon" vintage gelatin silver print 7 3/4 x 9 1/4 in. (12 5/8 x 15 5/8 x 1 1/8 in.)

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PROVENANCE:

Private Collection, Wyoming

Danny Lyon is an American photographer and filmmaker known for his journalistic interest in socioeconomic, counter-cultural, and civil rights issues, and is considered one of the most important American photographers of the last half century to renew the documentary tradition's concern with social justice. A Brooklyn native, Lyon was born on March 16, 1942, and received a BA in history in 1963 from the University of Chicago.

Lyon has devoted his career to documenting the demonstrations of social activism in which he has immersed himself. A self-taught photographer, Lyon was first introduced to the medium as a staff photographer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, photographing civil rights demonstrations against segregation in the American South. He was shaped by his experience covering the unrest of the 1960s, and this led to his first publication, The Movement (1964), and since then he has produced numerous books, including Conversations with the Dead (1971), the first book on America's prison system by a photojournalist. He has also had a significant career as a filmmaker, his work including Little Boy (1977), Los Niños Abandonados (1975), and Social Sciences 127 (1969).

Since 1967 he has been an independent photographer and an associate at Magnum. Lyon has received Guggenheim Fellowships in photography and filmmaking, and he has been the subject of several major exhibitions at galleries including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago. A major travelling retrospective was organized in 1990 by the Folkwang Museum in Essen, Germany, and the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson, Arizona. His works are in the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, among others. Lyon currently lives and works in rural New Mexico.

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