

MEDIA RELEASE

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Houston Foundations I: Suzanne Paul *PROOF*

March 12th to April 23rd, 2016

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present *PROOF*, an exhibition that features work from the archive of Houston-born artist Suzanne Paul. *PROOF* highlights many people that have contributed to Houston's art history and examines Suzanne's unique approach to creating photography. With the dedicated and continued support of Founder and Director, Deborah M. Colton to the well being of this art estate and Paul's daughter, Mercedes Mallard Paul since 2005 when Paul passed away, the gallery has invested for over a decade in examining the archives and uncovers much of Houston's art history. *PROOF* features select contact sheets from Paul's archives so her process can be more thoroughly examined, with an accompanying catalogue.

Suzanne Paul, a native Houstonian and avid photographer from a young age, has made an inestimable contribution to representing the arts in Houston and to recording Houston's art history. In intimate and revealing ways, Paul has documented many of the artists, patrons, and art community leaders who have shaped Houston's art scene since the 1970s and 80s. Her introduction to the Houston Arts and launch of her career happened in 1976 when she was commissioned by James Harithas, then Director of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, to document artists and exhibitions for the museum's catalogues. Shortly thereafter, Suzanne Paul was invited to have the first solo photography exhibition by a woman at the museum.

Born in Houston, Texas in 1945, Suzanne Paul practiced photography from the age of nine. Paul received her BFA from the University of Houston in 1968 and did graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley. In the 1960s Paul became a political activist for anti-war and civil rights causes. In Houston, she photographed for the feminist magazine "Breakthrough" in the late 1970s. Paul has had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Fort Worth Art Museum, the Galveston Arts Center and the University of California, San Francisco among many others. She has participated in numerous group exhibitions including *Collaborations: Artists Working Together in Houston* at the Glassell School of Art and *Texas Artists* at the Charles Cowles Gallery in New York. In 1981 Paul received a National Endowment for the Arts Photo Survey Grant. Paul's photographic works have been featured in both solo and group presentations by FotoFest International since its founding in 1983. Her work has been shown in a number of exhibitions at Deborah Colton Gallery, including at the Memorial Service and exhibition of her works that paid tribute to the Houston art community in 2005 which had record attendance..

Deborah Colton Gallery is founded on being an innovative showcase for ongoing presentation and promotion of strong historical and visionary contemporary artists world-wide, whose diverse practices include painting, works on paper, sculpture, video, photography, performance and conceptual future media installations. The gallery aspires to provide a forum through connecting Texas, national and international artists to make positive change.