Gordon Stettinius

Miss Americana

The images from Miss Americana have been made over a period of better than ten years and the project is ongoing. The title is intended to convey both the corny good feeling that comes from state fairs and roadside attractions, replete with nostalgia and the passage of time and loved ones travelling alongside strangers.

But prefixing the ëMissí in front of ëAmericanaí is an intentional effort to subvert the rose-tinted propaganda that proliferates throughout our cultural existence. On larger issues, we seldom agree on much of anything. No matter who you are, there are both subjective and objective realities to be had and someone to tussle with if you should be so inclined. Along the highways and byways, there is no end of enterprises to amuse, confuse, educate or anger those who are willing to pull over and pay attention.

Travelling the back roads and blue highways, a person cannot help but muse upon politics and religion and the economy and gender issues and, in my world, these various subjects are channelled through the abject Siamese tandem of pathos and humour. Very much coloured by my interests and experiences, this work lists between shame and sentimentality and is ultimately a little skewed by subjectivity. However, when I consider these images and my editing of them, I am struck by the realization that you really cannot make this stuff up.

We live in a curious place.

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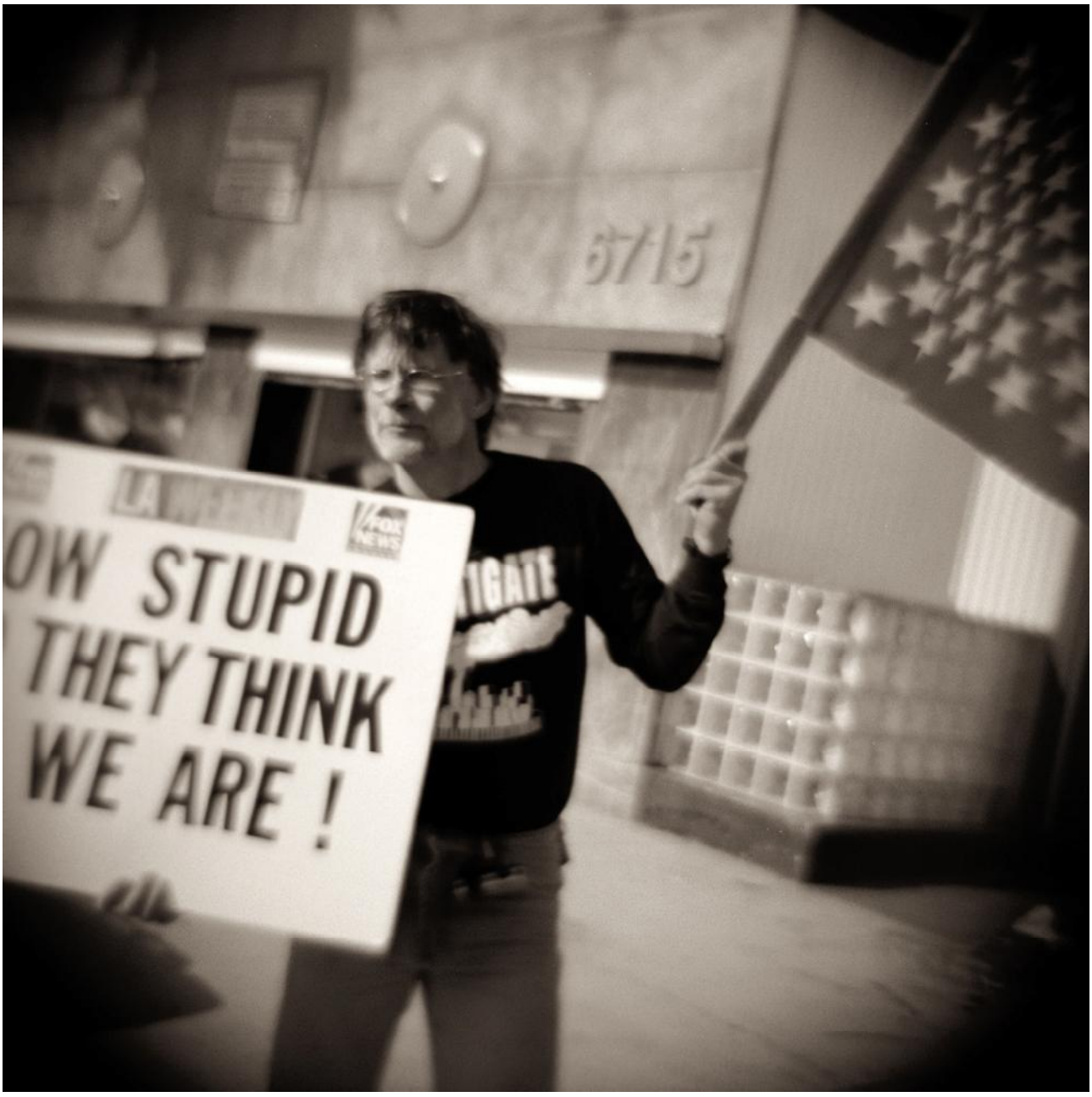
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OW STUPID
THEY THINK
WE ARE !

Gordon Stettinius

Miss Americana

Les images de la sÈrie Miss Americana ont ÈtÈ prises sur une pÈriode de dix ans, et le projet est toujours en cours. Le titre est sensÈ se rapporter ‡ ce sentiment un peu miËvre que líon ressent en visitant des fÍtes foraines et des attractions ‡ deux sous, complet avec sa dose de nostalgie, de líineffable du temps qui passe et de ceux quíon aime et les inconnus aussi.

Mais prÈfixer Americana avec Miss est un effort intentionnel de subvertir cette propagande ‡ líeau de rose qui prolifËre dans toutes les sphËres de notre activitÈ culturelle. Sur les grandes questions, il est rare que nous soyons díaccord. Qui que nous soyons, notre rÈalitÈ sera ‡ la fois subjective et objective, et il y aura toujours prËs de nous quelquíun avec qui se taper dessus síil nous en prend líenvie. Le long des autoroutes et des routes de campagne, il y a tout un tas de bouibouis prÍts ‡ amuser, embrouiller, Èduquer ou enrager quiconque se sent assez hardi pour síarrÍter et leur prÍter attention.

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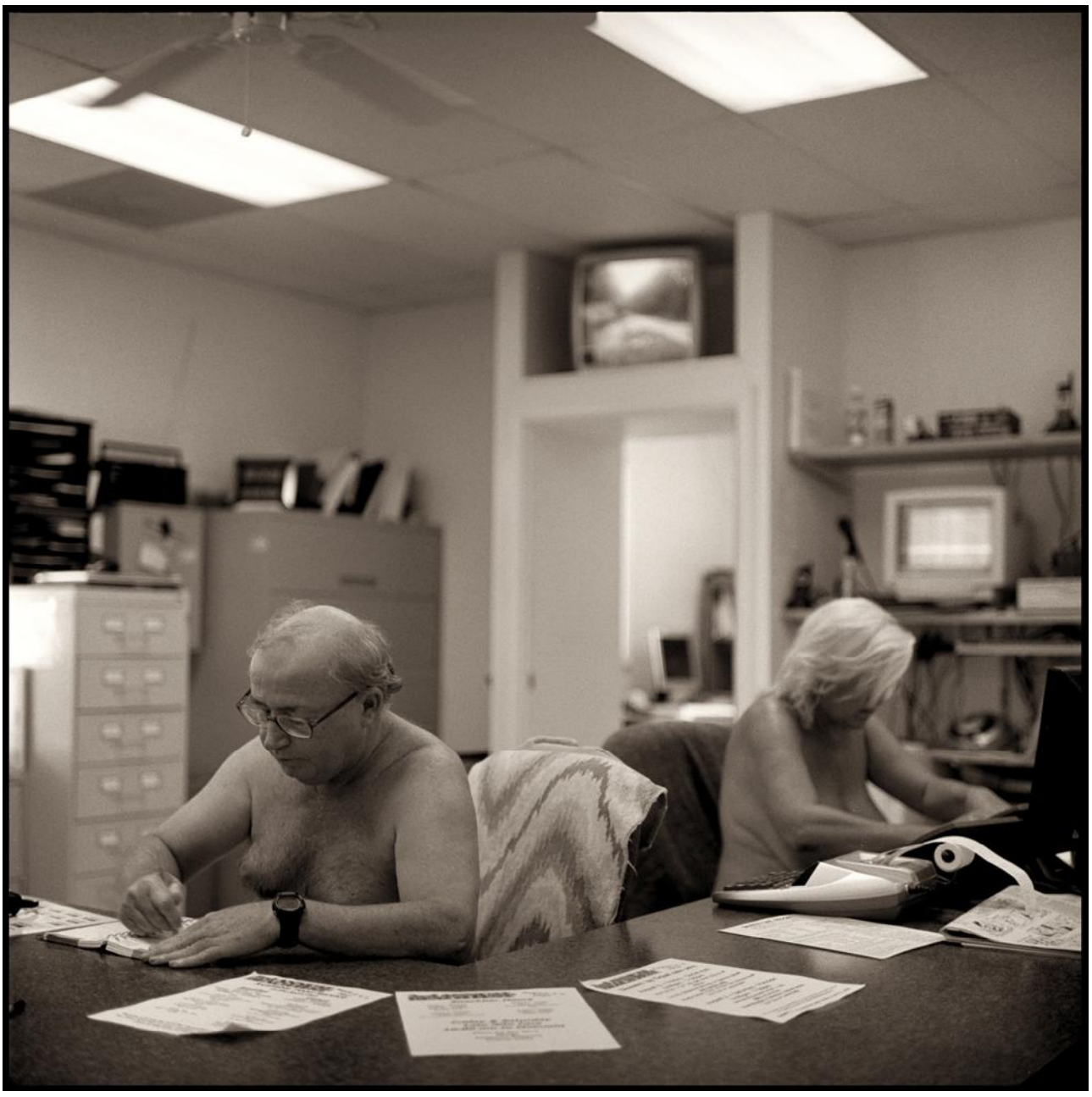

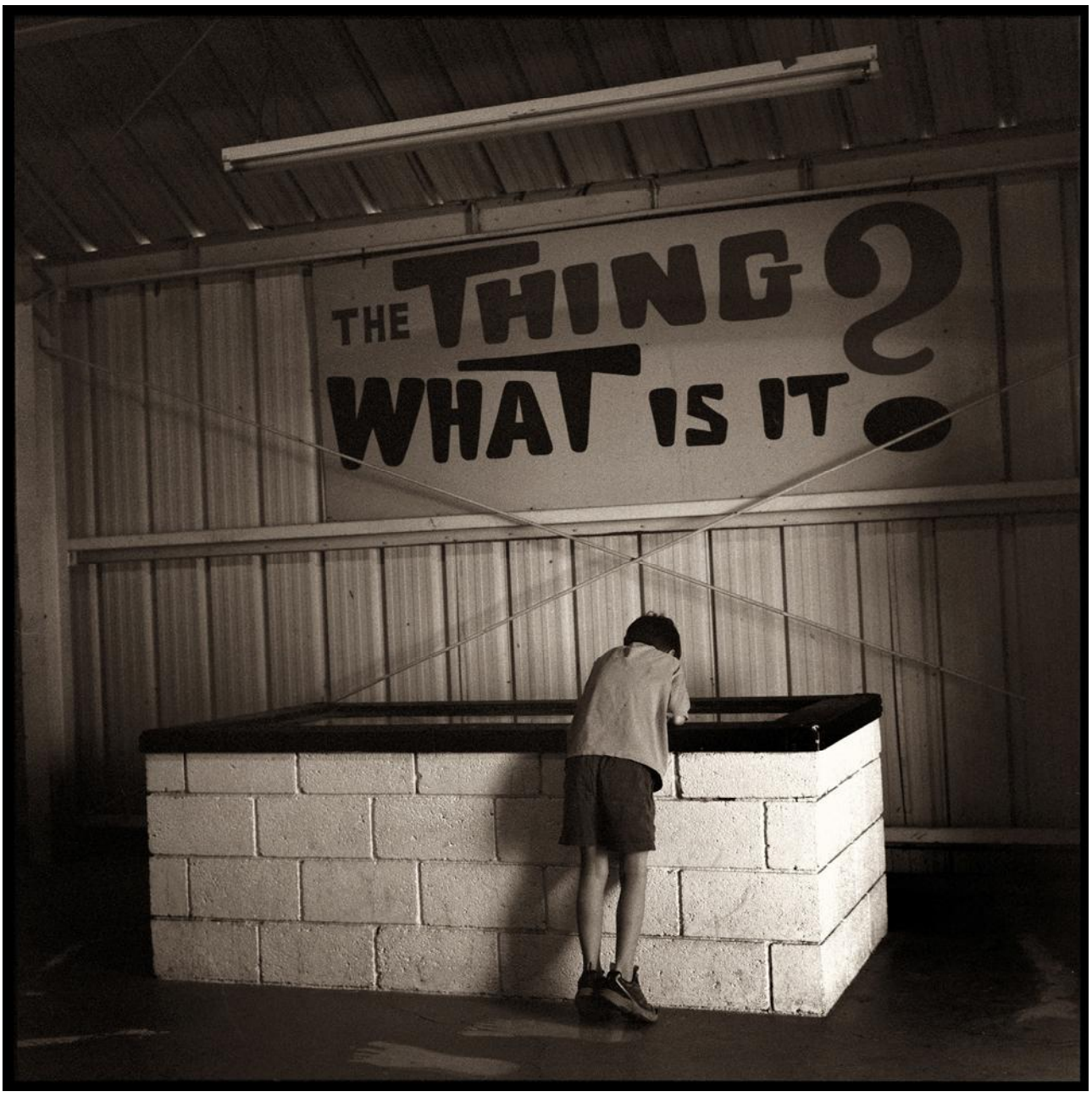
THE THING
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