



SALLY MANN

PHOTOGRAPHER

When Sally Mann published "Immediate Family" in 1992, a selection of photographs from hundreds that documented a decade of her children's lives, she hardly expected the overwhelming attention that ensued. Within three months, the book sold out 10,000 copies, quickly turning Sally Mann into a household name. All of a sudden, Mann went from living a peaceful life on a secluded family farm in Lexington, Virginia, to exposed and vulnerable in the middle of very public, controversial discussions about art, nudity, and children. Although the experience rattled her, it left her with more to say.

Each of Mann's photographic series—whether of her children, Southern landscapes, studies of death or of her husband—reveal a fervent intensity to explore what is most important to her. After transforming reality into ethereal and mysterious photographs, the resulting images tell stories that might not have existed right before the shutter clicked. It took an invitation from Harvard to deliver at the prestigious Massey Lecture Series—and the subsequent discovery of a Pandora's box full of juicy family history—for Mann to weave all these stories together in a soul-baring memoir, already earning her a finalist nomination for the 2015 National Book Award in Nonfiction.

While her photographs are only slivers, each "a 30th of a second," her book "Hold Still: A Memoir with Photographs," reveals the confidential context in prose that is as vivid as her images. Perhaps now that she has confronted her past, Mann can finish her most intimate series to date, *Marital Trust*, a portrait of her over 44-year long marriage. As for another literary project, Sally Mann says "this book done like to have kilt me, as we say down here, and God knows I don't have another one in me."

—Sabrina Wirth