

## SHELBY LEE ADAMS SALT & TRUTH

For more than 37 years, Shelby Lee Adams has photographed the inhabitants of the Appalachia. Two or three times a year he travels to his native area to portray whole families—many of them have been photographed during three and almost four generations. Lee Adams, who was introduced in this culture by his uncle, a revered native doctor—has gained the confidence of these people who open their lives in front of his camera.

Even though he works with a very heavy equipment, a large format camera, a tripod and lighting, Shelby Lee Adams make these men and women feel relaxed by letting them choose the way they want to be photographed. First, he shoots a Polaroid and shows this photograph to all the portrayed. Photographer and subject choose together what they want to be shown in the final picture. Sometimes this happens one year after he shot the Polaroid, which makes the confidence on the photographer even deeper; he can wait. Children have grown up seeing his photographs hanging in their parents and grandparents homes. They expect to be photographed by Adams; it is not even a conversation. It is just something they do.

Experiencing, reliving and understanding their different accents, cultural diversity and manner of living, differing from valley to valley, their love for humanity, their total commitment with the family; that's the aim of this photographer that has been portraying these people for almost four decades, a witness of a culture who struggles for survival in a world of constant changes.

This exhibition compiles 70 pictures, the most representatives of his work in the Appalachian.



Mary, 1989 © Shelby Lee Adams

### TECHNICAL LIST

- **Content**  
-70 photographs in B&W
- **Size of Works:**  
- 40x50cm, paper size
- **Condition:** Framed
- **Transport:** The exhibition travels from Madrid Specialized Art transport not required.
- **Availability:**  
From November 2011
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