

VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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FALL 2020 EVENTS

USC-LACMA History of Photography Seminar



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

7pm

*When Are Good Pictures?
A Genealogy of Photographic Style*

KIM BEIL, PHD
ITALIC Associate Director,
Stanford University

How-to books and photo blogs often represent the rules of photography as timeless or inherent to the medium. In fact, though, what we define as a “good picture” is constantly changing. In her new book, *Good Pictures: A History of Popular Photography*, Beil traces 50 stylistic trends through 175 years of photographic practice. In this talk, she will discuss several elements of contemporary pictures that seem unassailably good (the “best” angle for selfies, the “best” light for portraits), and show that these judgments are actually recent developments, which overturn decades of previous advice on how to make good pictures.

RSVP
to
vsri@usc.edu for
Zoom information
or to be added to
our Slack channel.

