

GLIMPSES:

the outsider photography of

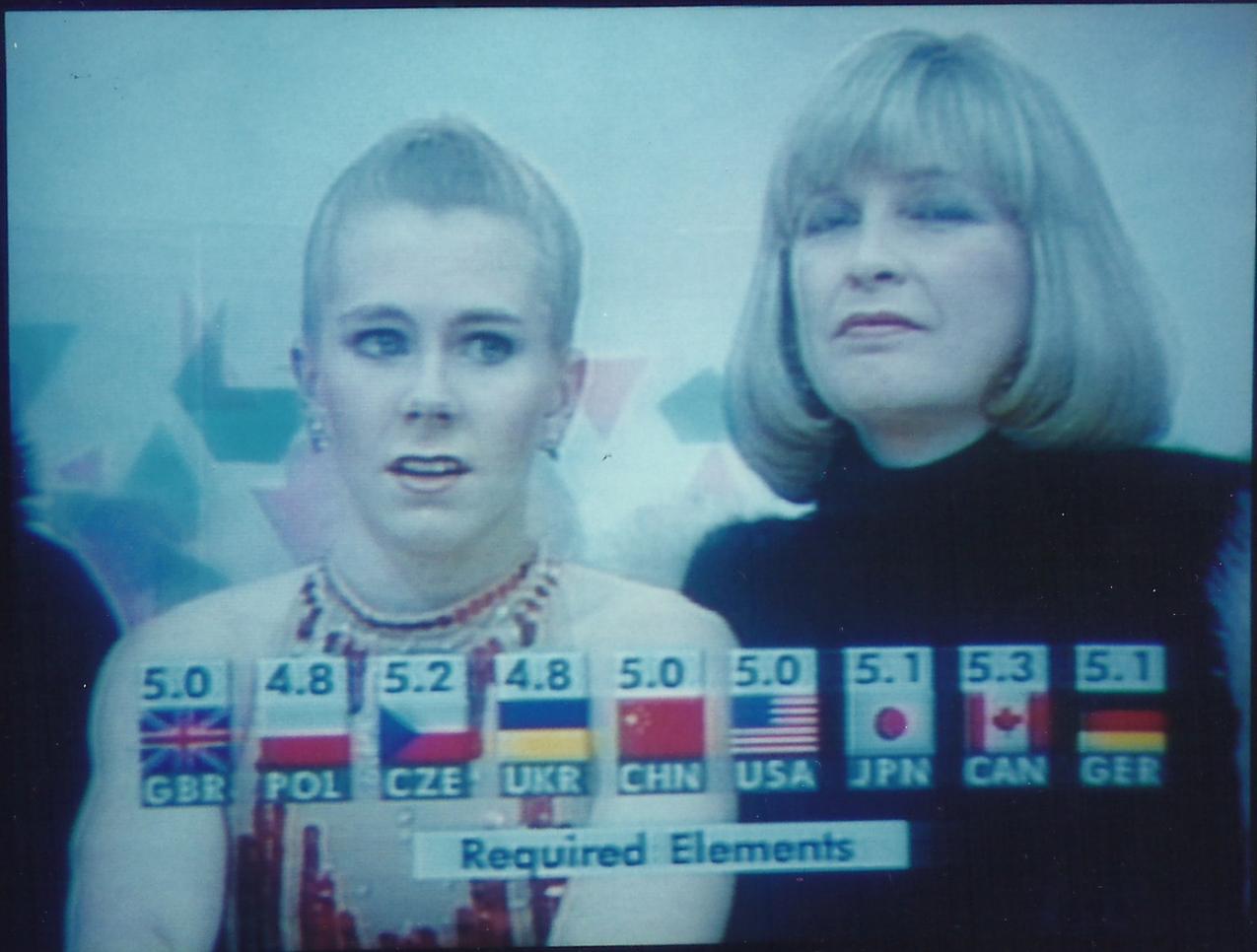
GLORIA
ALTEN

BURNSIDE RARE BOOKS





The T.V. Photography of
Gloria Allen





The T.V. Photography of Gloria Alten

[Portland, Oregon]: [Gloria Alten], [ca. 1993-94]. Nine linear inches of loose 4"x6" drugstore prints intended by the artist to make postcards with. A handful of unused postcard backings and some completed postcards are present. Some images are duplicates.

Portland artist Gloria Alten (1923-2014) sat in front of her T.V. and took hundreds of pictures of the news. It was the early 1990s, and there was something about the news in that era.

I can't tell if it was just my age (a gawky middle-schooler), or if it was in fact a different world, but the media seemed like it

was on steroids. Scandals came one after another, each loomed larger than the one before and celebrities and politicians just couldn't seem to keep it together.

It was almost as if news corporations finally figured out how to truly sensationalize the news and use it to create lucrative blockbusters. There was the spectacle of the O. J. Simpson trial, Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky, Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan, Michael Jackson and so many more.

No doubt the media has a stranglehold on us today, but it's different. The graphics are flashier and the screen is splintered like our



attention spans. News is on our phones and in our pockets everywhere we go. It's regurgitated through friends' posts on social media, dropped into an endless feed where it quickly falls out of view and memory. The peaks don't feel as high, and the valleys not as low, but the style of today's news consumption has its roots in the '90s.

And all that is evident in this body of work.

Here is a collection of photographs taken by Alten from the living room of her home. With her camera focused on her T.V. set, she captured some of the spectacle that was the early '90s media landscape.

The bulk of the photographs (5 linear inches) are of Bill Clinton and his early presidency: debates with George Bush and Ross Perot, his inauguration, State of the Union Address, appearances on *The Phil Donahue*, and appearances by Hilary, Chelsea, Al Gore, Janet Reno, Oprah and Muhammad Ali, etc. Yes, he is shown playing the saxophone.

The second largest subject photographed (2.5 linear inches) is Tonya Harding. Images trace her saga from the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Olympics, with Tonya in tears over a broken lace and her skate lifted to the rail, pleading with the judges to allow a do-over.

Other images show Jeff Gillooly, Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya's mom. Tonya is also

shown appearing in court, and being interviewed by Connie Chung. A small group of images show a real-life event at which appeared for a grand re-opening center for Portland's Lloyd Center Mall skating rink, the rink where she first learned how to skate. Alten has also photographed newsstands showing tabloid and magazine covers featuring Harding.

The remaining images feature figures such as Michael Jackson, Madonna, characters from *Sesame Street*, *Court TV*, a Miss America-themes talk show and more, including Alten's real-life visit to what appears to be a Muppet studio or workshop tour.

Alten used these images to make limited edition postcards for a series entitled "Glipses." Captions were printed on a separate paper, which was glued to the back of a T.V. image and slightly trimmed. These, for the most part, are her unused images, or images she intended to use as some have numbers on their verso.

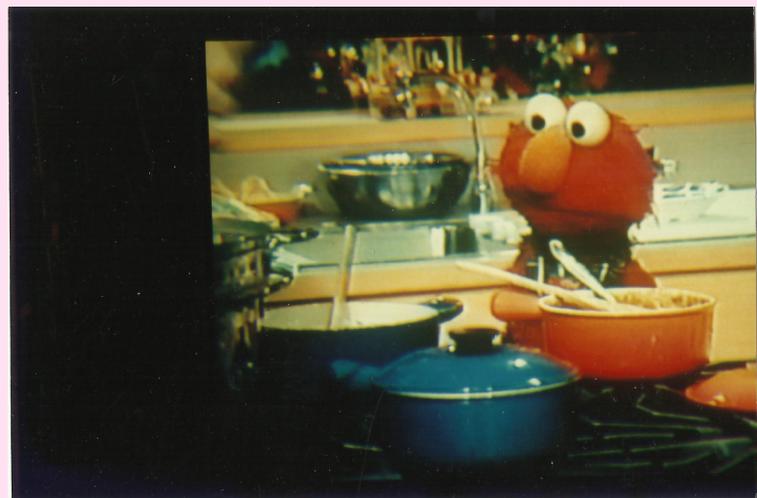
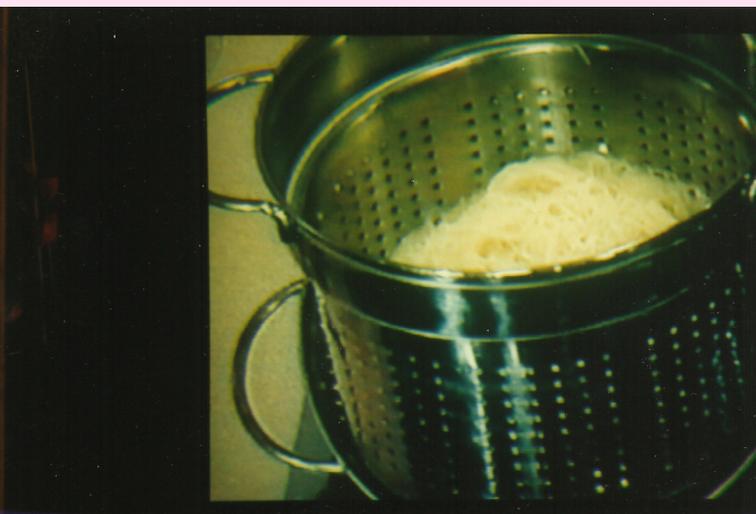
An extensive collection of photographs that at times display an unassuming artistic genius, and at other times exude a sort of inspired mania. Yet overall, they capture the harsh nature of media in the early '90s, laying bare a hungry worship of celebrity, coupled with the relentless desire for downfall.

\$2,500









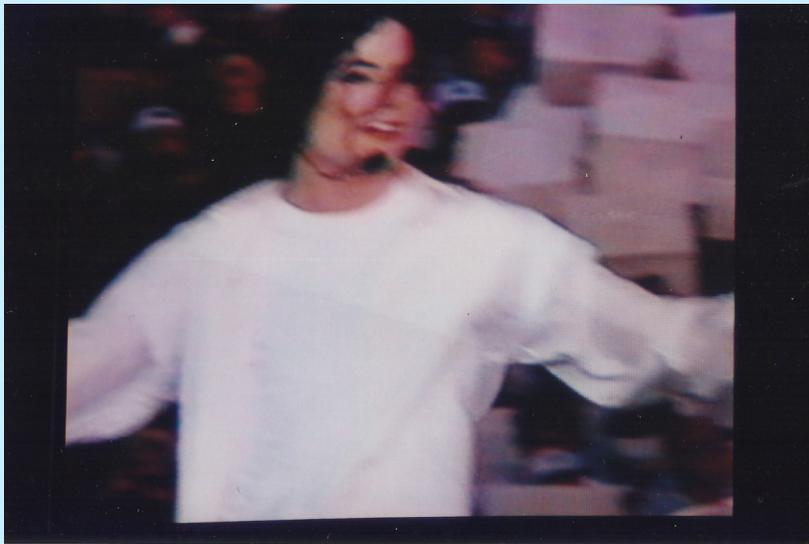


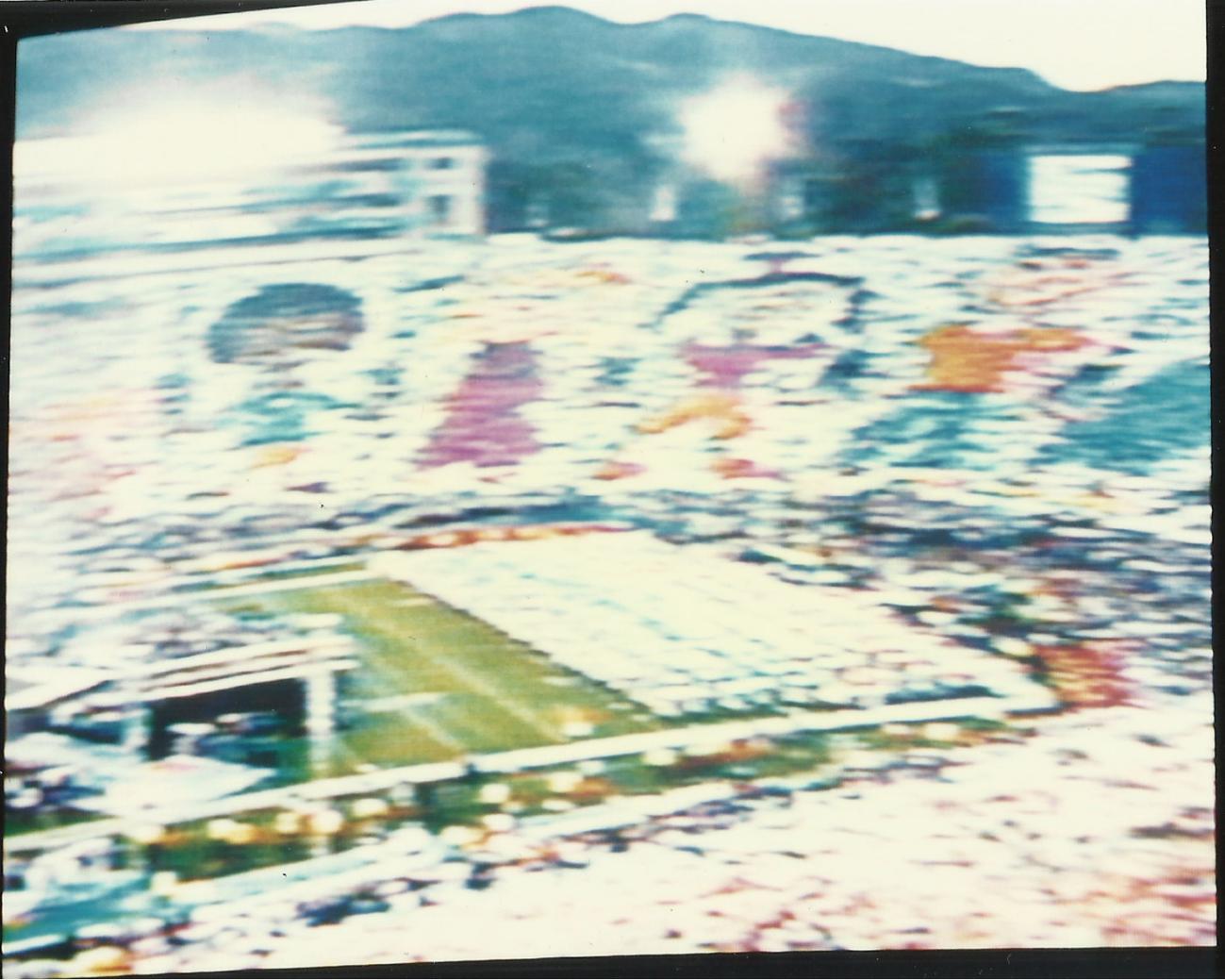


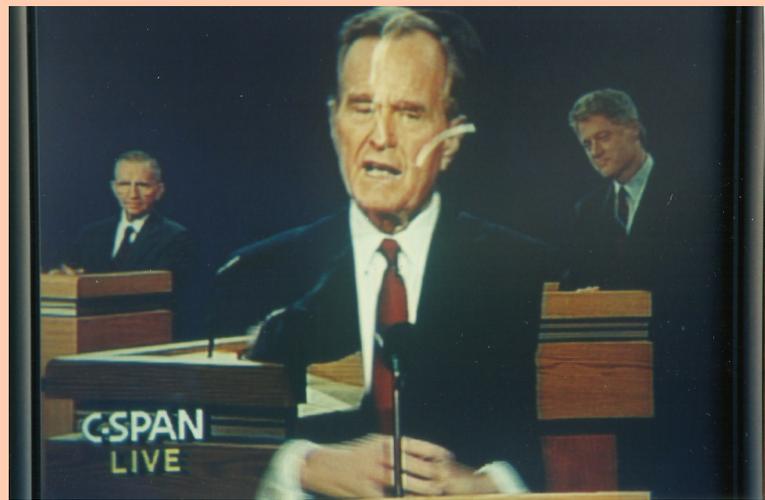
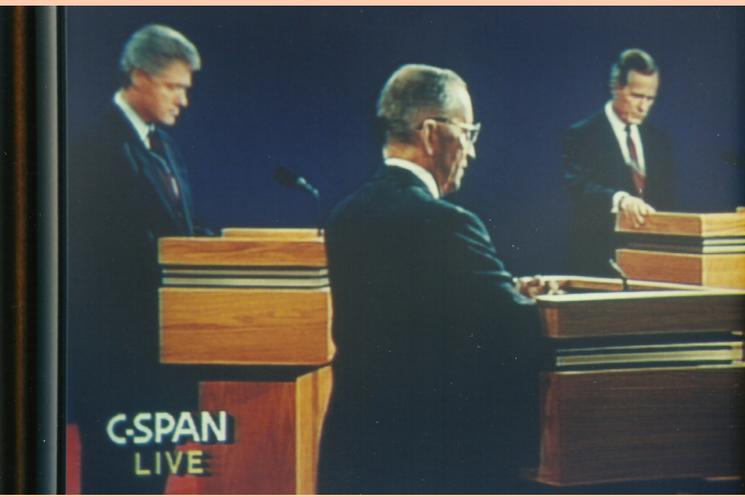
Dar Robinson holds the world record for the longest successful car jump with a woman standing on top -- 100 ft.

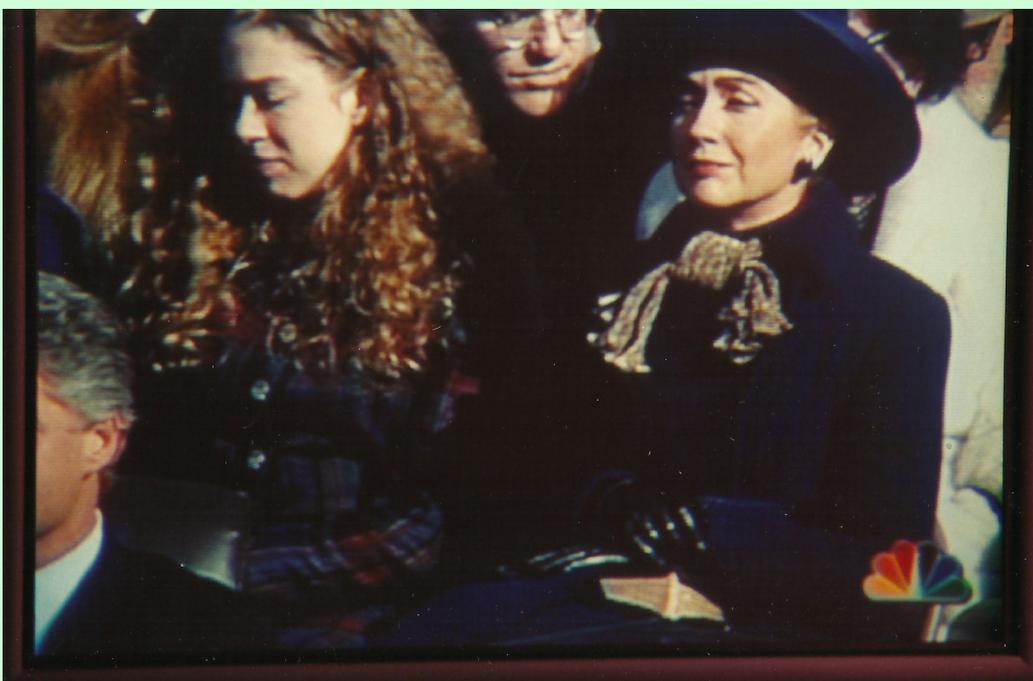




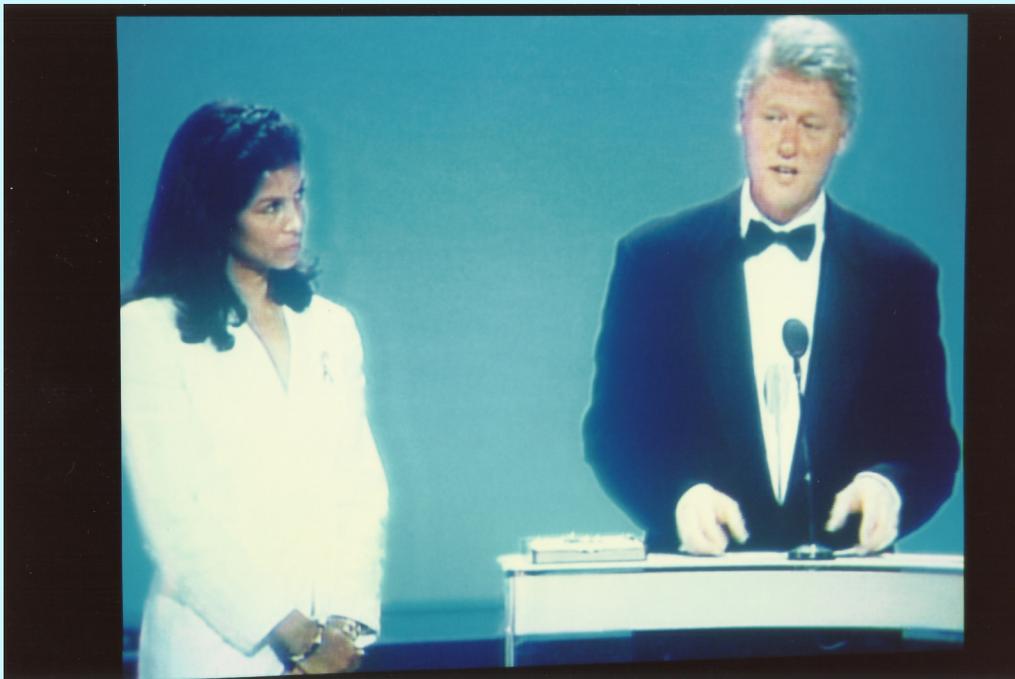








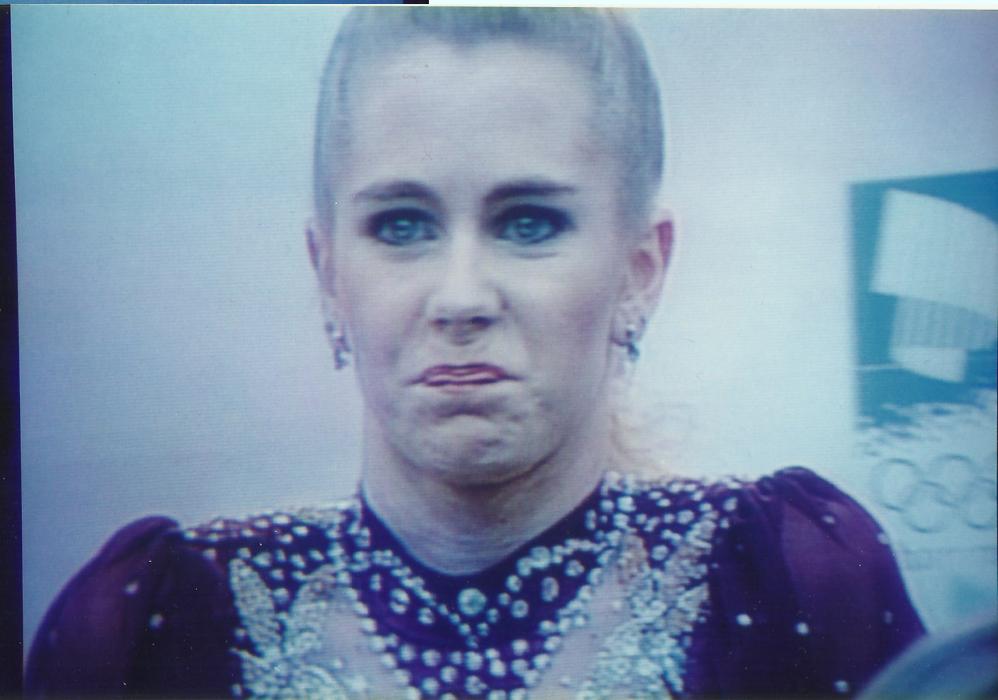




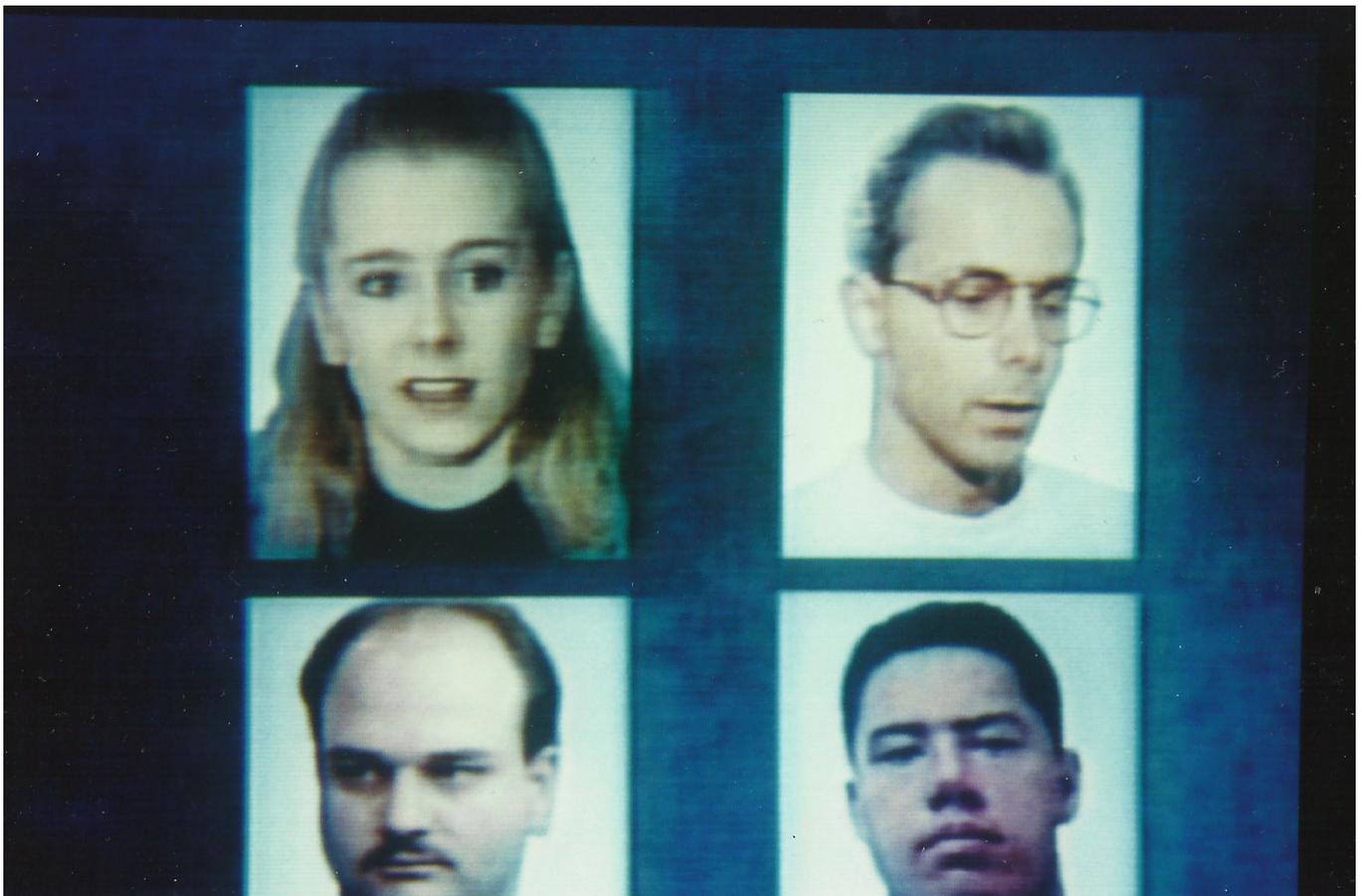
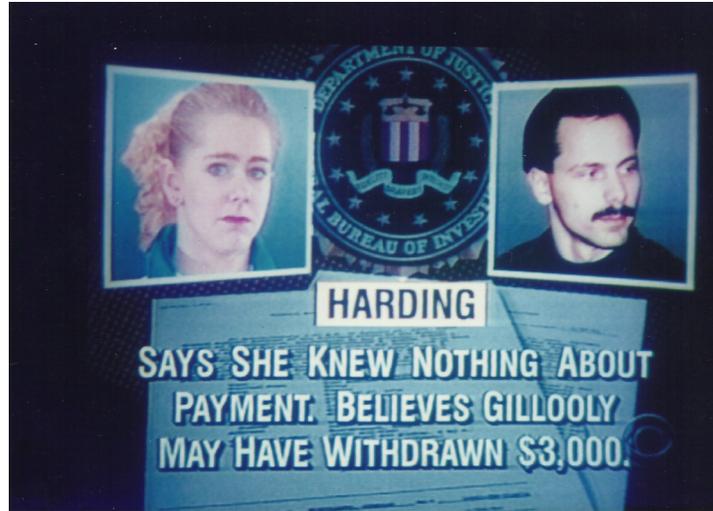
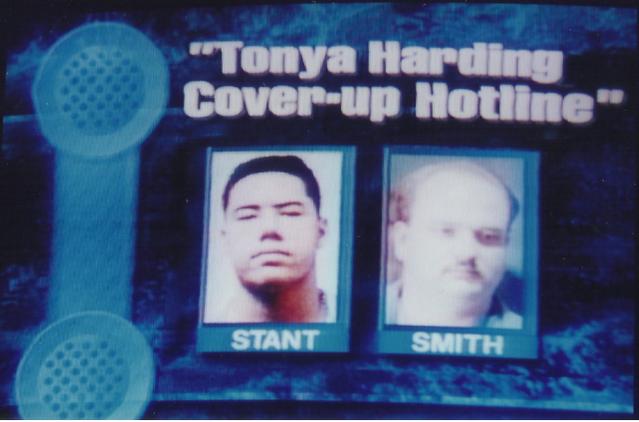














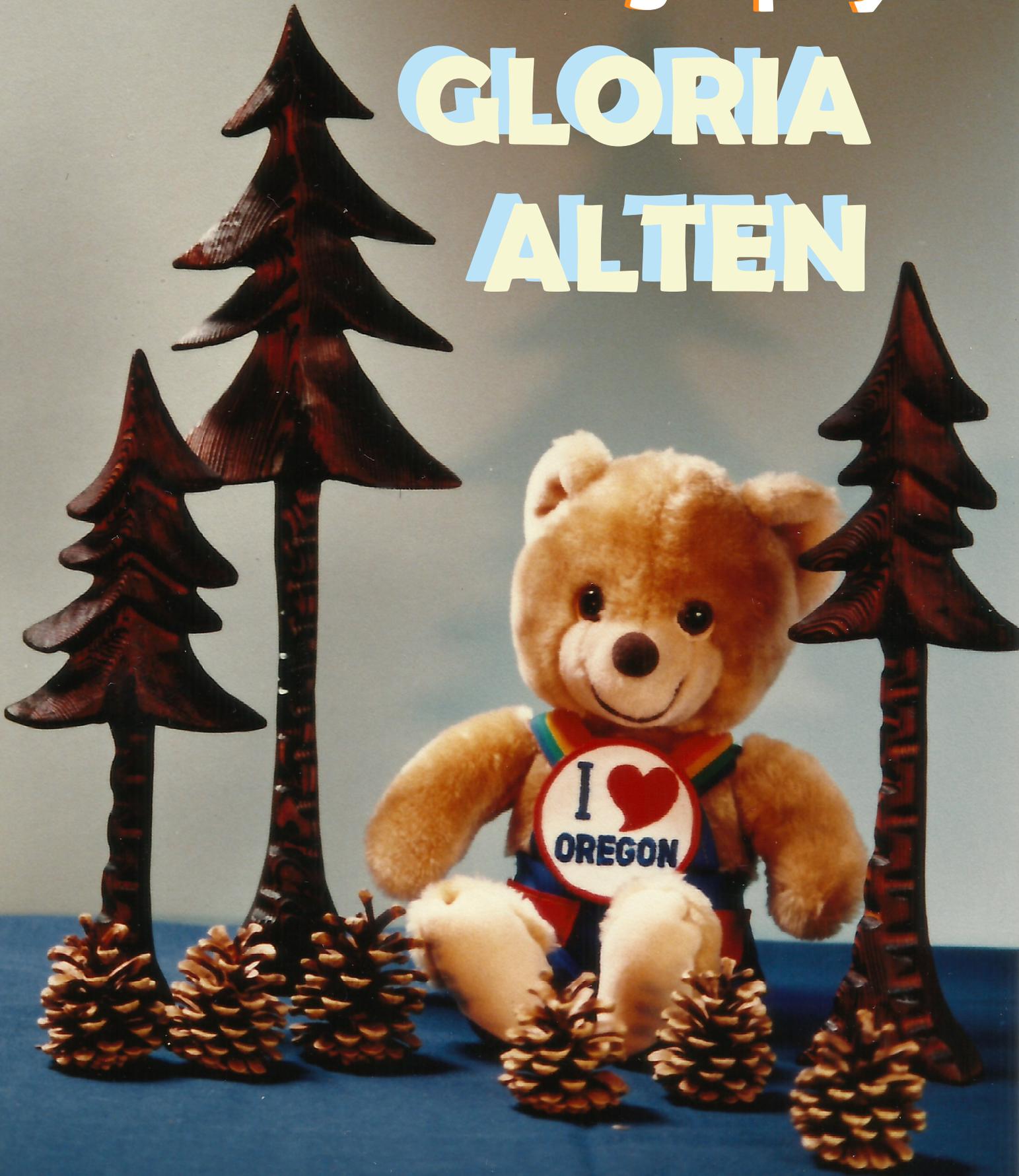


To order: info@burnsiderarebooks.com

ABAA /
ILAB

Burnside Rare Books
www.burnsiderarebooks.com
420 SW Washington St. #303
Portland, OR 97204

**The Stuffed Bear
Photography of
GLORIA
ALTEN**





The Stuffed Bear Photography of GLORIA ALTEN

[Lake Oswego, Oregon]: [Gloria Alten], [ca. 1983-84]. Four linear inches of loose 4"x6" drugstore prints intended by the artist to make blank greeting cards with; some duplicates and many are near-duplicates—original photographs repetitively taken of the same scene but slightly different. [With] 100 completed greeting cards: 7.5"x5.5"folded sheets with original photograph pasted on front, most hand-titled and/or signed by the

artist; with blank envelope in plastic sleeve. [With] Three Polaroid images.

Portland-area artist Gloria Alten (1923-2014) created a line of greeting cards she illustrated by photographing scenes with stuffed bears, for what appears to be her long-running project entitled "Glances." Here, her process is somewhat visible; with the finished product presented alongside the rejected pictures one

GLIMPSES

Gloria
Alten

Photographer

Suitable-For-Framing

15508 Diamond Head Road

Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

can begin to notice the difference between nearly identical shots. A slightly different lighting pattern on a scene can change the mood completely.

Many scenes were arranged by month—February is Valentine’s Day, April is tax time, and so on. Often a bear is seen wearing an “I Love Oregon” shirt and occasionally there is a Portland-area theme.

Overall, an odd collection of images in which the photographer seems to approach with certain earnestness. For example, a scene for February, 1984 includes a copy of George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. A book so over-used as shorthand for dystopia is here placed next to a smiling stuffed bear without the slightest hint of irony, as if Alten is happily enjoying the coincidence.

\$750



1984



FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	♥	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

1984



FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	♥	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			







© I Love Oregon Bear
Ready for April Showers
April 42

Glenn Allen March 1984

This is a SPECIAL EVENT notecard of a new monthly series. March and April cards will be available soon. January is also available.

Encircle YOUR personal event on the calendar.



I LO Bear # Feb 18

© Gloria Altan - January 1984



*© I Love Oregon Bears & friends
admire Mt. Hood & Portland, Oregon*

© Gloria Altan - January 1984



© Gloria Allen



Teddy & Santa



ILO Bear April #1

Gloria Allen February 1984



© I Love Oregon Bear & friend
April # 3

© Gloria Altman March 1984



© I Love Oregon Bear & friends
admire U.S. Bancorp Tower in
Portland, Oregon

© Gloria Altman January 1984



© I Love Oregon Bear
April #13

© Gloria Altan March 1984



© I Love Oregon Bear
March #4

© Gloria Altan March 1984



To order: info@burnsiderarebooks.com

ABAA /
ILAB

Burnside Rare Books
www.burnsiderarebooks.com
420 SW Washington St. #303
Portland, OR 97204