

Compare and Contrast Photographs by Danny Lyon

Art + Social Justice

The logo for the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, featuring the text "SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART" in a black, sans-serif font, with "ART" in a larger, bold font, all enclosed in a black square border.

SANTA BARBARA
MUSEUM OF
ART

Themes:

- Protest
- Social Movements
- Racism
- US History
- Privilege + Oppression

The following artworks are in the permanent collection of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Each work relates to the theme of art and social justice.

Explore their meanings, answer questions, and discuss together.



Danny Lyon

Danny Lyon

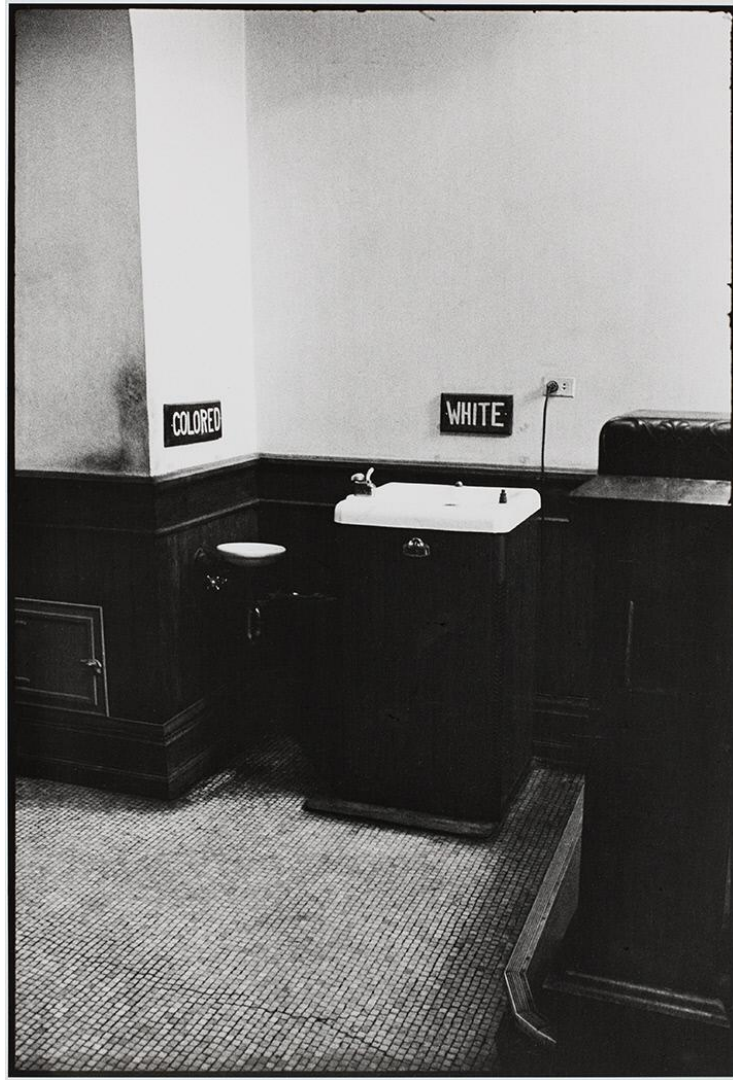
(American, b. 1942)

*Segregated Drinking Fountains in
the County Courthouse in Albany,
Georgia, 1962*

Gelatin silver print

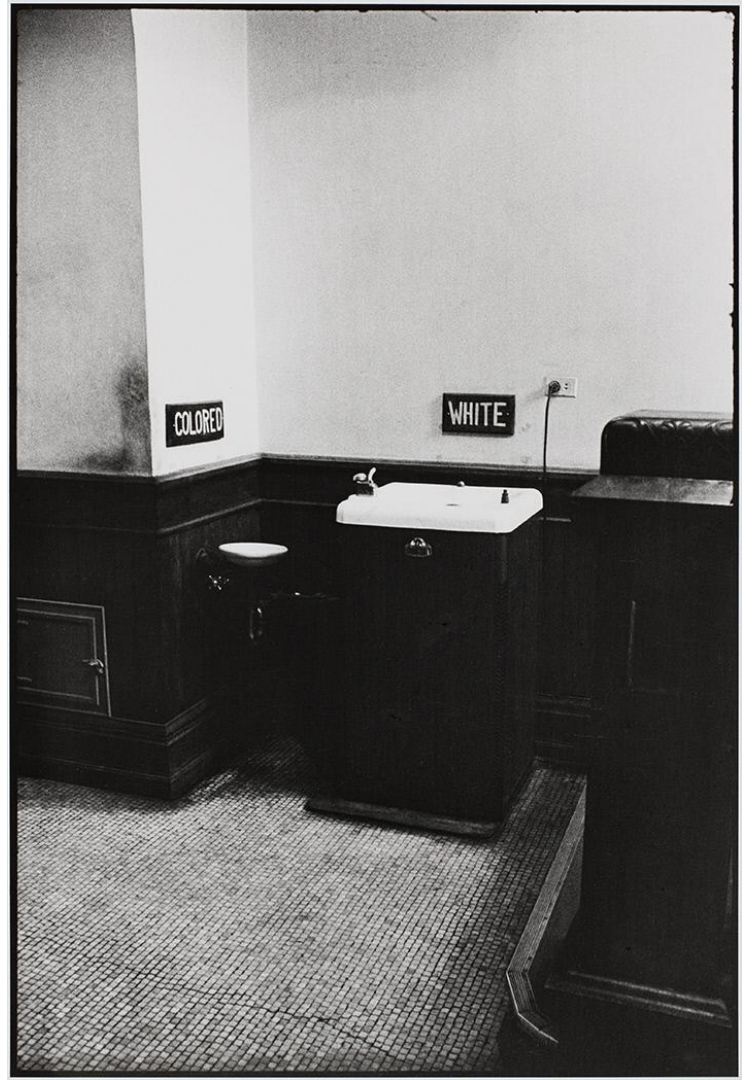
SBMA, Museum purchase, 2012.41.5

© Danny Lyon/Magnum Photos



Danny Lyon

1. What do you notice about the two water fountains?
2. What role does text play in this image?
3. How might the photograph change if there were people depicted in it?



Danny Lyon

Danny Lyon
(American, b. 1942)
*Demonstration at an “All
White” Swimming Pool in
Cairo, Illinois, 1962*
Gelatin silver print

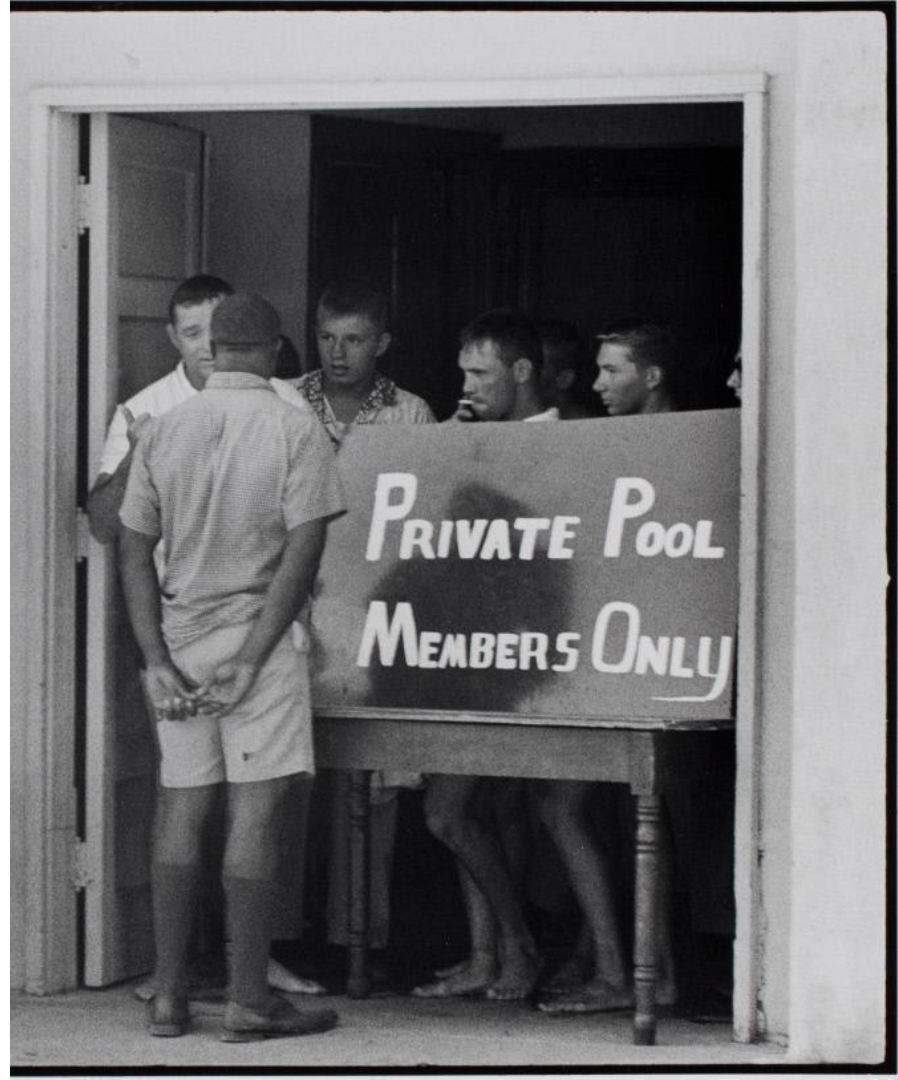
SBMA, Museum purchase, 2012.41.1
© Danny Lyon/Magnum Photos



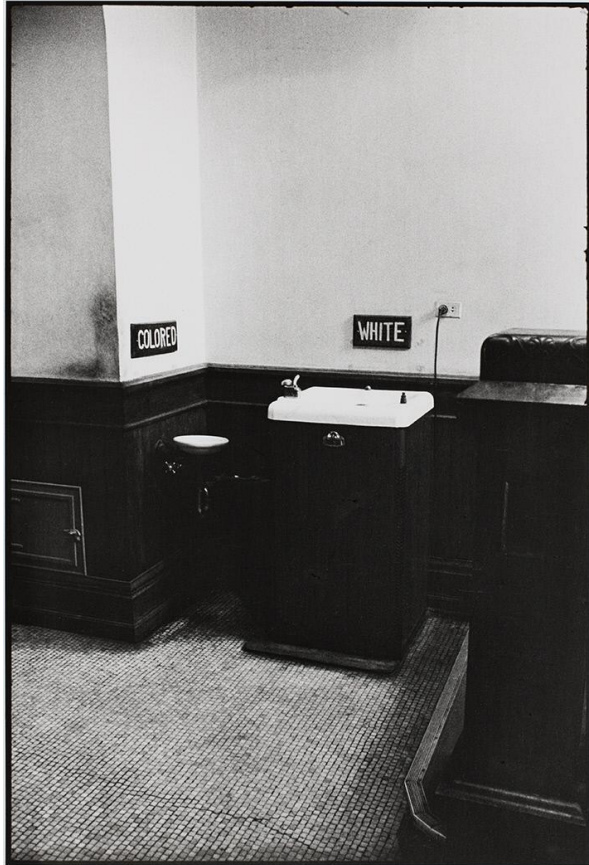


Danny Lyon

1. What does the title of this photograph tell you about what is taking place?
2. How would you describe the mood of this photograph?
3. Why do you think Lyon chose this composition? What does the full horizontal photograph show us?

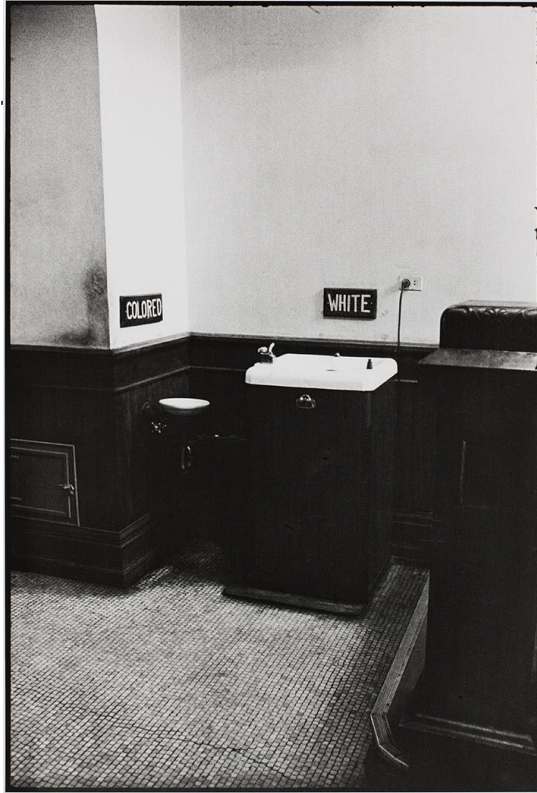


Danny Lyon



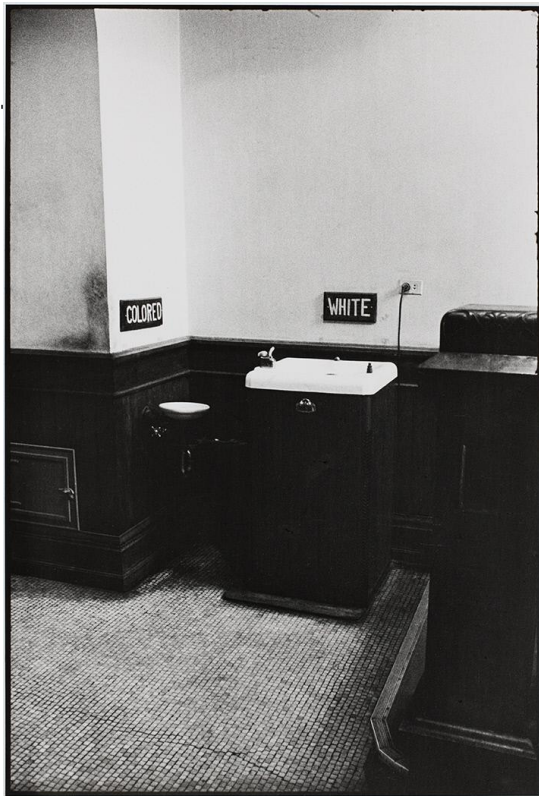
Danny Lyon began his career while he was still a student at the University of Chicago. In 1962, after seeing an image of University of Michigan student newspaper editor and activist Tom Hayden being beaten during a voter registration drive, he hitchhiked to the segregated South to try his hand at photojournalism. There, he documented marches, sit-ins, and Civil Rights leaders. Lyon soon became the first official photographer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and his hard-hitting, iconic images from this pivotal time launched him onto a creative path dedicated to providing powerful, genuine alternatives to the pictures and stories permeating American mass media.

Compare + Contrast



DISCUSS: What are the similarities and differences between these two artworks?

Compare + Contrast



DISCUSS: How does the feeling of the photograph change with people vs. no people?

Art + Social Justice



This presentation was created by the Education Department at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art in 2020 in collaboration with Santa Barbara-based high school teachers.

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