

## Guy Mendes

### Photographer

In 1956, Guy Mendes got his hands on his first camera – a Kodak Brownie that made black-and-white photographs. He shot photographs in New Orleans' French Quarter, on family vacations, and of the family car. In the early 1960s, he acquired a Polaroid Swinger, which made black-and-white instant prints. He photographed his cat and his feet and his bedroom.

In 1968, he acquired a 35 mm camera, a Pentax. He photographed anti-war protests and the giant Peabody Shovel stripping coal. Inspired by his teachers Ralph Eugene Meatyard and James Baker Hall, he began using large-format film cameras. In the 1990s, he began using digital cameras while continuing to shoot film for the beautiful silver prints that it yields.

Mendes teaches Darkroom Photography at the UK School of Art & Visual Studies.

His books include LOCAL LIGHT, LIGHT AT HAND and 40/40—FORTY YEARS FORTY PORTRAITS. His current exhibit, "Where Paradise Lay—Art and Sanctuary in the South," is at the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft (KMAC) in Louisville through November. His photographs have been published in Aperture, Newsweek, the New York Times, the Oxford American, The Smithsonian, Garden & Gun and Orion Quarterly. His prints are in collections including the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Cincinnati Art Museum, the UK Art Museum, the U of L Photographic Archives, Churchill Downs, Makers' Mark and the Federal Reserve Bank.

Mendes has lived and worked in Kentucky since graduating from UK in 1970. He worked at KET for 35 years, first as a graphic artist, and then as a writer, producer and director.

