



TEST OF FAITH

SIGNS, SERPENTS, SALVATION

*The Winner of the Biennial Center for Documentary Studies/
Honickman First Book Prize in Photography*

PETER BARBERIE selects LAUREN POND for first prize book in
this important series celebrating North American photography



“Lauren Pond plunges us into the hothouse atmosphere of the Wolfords’ faith. Through her photographs, I can almost feel the physical strain of Mack’s worship, and I long to hear the song that his mother, Snook, sings as he accompanies her on guitar. Who are these purposeful, vibrant people so different from myself? *Test of Faith* commands this question and prompts me to consider the basis and limitations of my own worldview.”

—PETER BARBERIE



“I no longer see my images as documentation of serpent-handling practice and culture. Instead, they serve as a record of my rich friendship with the Wolfords, our shared experiences, and the valuable insights they have given me into the tenets of their faith—namely, forgiveness and redemption.”

—LAUREN POND



Lauren Pond is an award-winning freelance photographer based in Columbus, Ohio, the manager of the Fresh A.I.R. Gallery, and a multimedia content producer for the Center for the Study of Religion at Ohio State University. Pond earned a B.S. and B.A. at Northwestern University in 2009 and an M.A. from Ohio University in 2014. Her photographs have been seen in solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States and in Australia. Pond has also spoken extensively on her work at academic conferences and universities in the United States.

Peter Barberie is the Brodsky Curator of Photographs, Alfred Stieglitz Center, at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. In 2014, Barberie organized the exhibition *Paul Strand: Master of Modern Photography*, an in-depth retrospective of Strand's photography and films that has traveled internationally. He also organized the exhibition *Zoe Strauss: Ten Years*, a major mid-career survey of Strauss's photography. Barberie has written widely on contemporary art and received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 2007.

The Center for Documentary Studies/Honickman First Book Prize in Photography is open to North American photographers who use their cameras for creative exploration, whether it be of places, people, or communities; of the natural or social world; of beauty at large or the lack of it; of objective or subjective realities.

firstbookprizephoto.com

TEST OF FAITH: SIGNS, SERPENTS, SALVATION

PHOTOGRAPHS AND TEXT BY LAUREN POND

144 pages | 110 color photographs | 12 x 10 trim size | cloth, \$45.00tr

A CDS BOOK

Published by Duke University Press and the Center for Documentary Studies

For more information about this important book series, Lauren Pond's *Test of Faith*, and the previous prizewinning books, visit firstbookprizephoto.com.

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