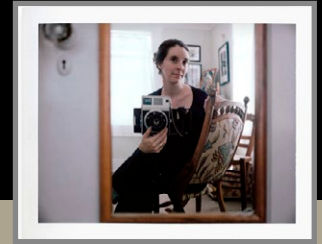




LENSWORK

Alumni News

Rachel Phillips — Pacifica, California



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New Work

Ghost Light Theaters

In 2016, renowned archivist Madge Cameron discovered a treasure trove deep in the dusty depths of her archive in San Francisco: a series of tabletop theaters with interchangeable slides produced in the 1930's by Treadwell Press.



The imagery for Ghost Light Theaters consists of interchangeable slides printed on handmade Japanese paper and accompanied by brief narrative intertitles. These montage sequences are composed from layers of vernacular snapshots and silhouettes of paper figures meticulously cut and photographed in the studio.

Each theater is handmade in every detail by Rachel Phillips.

[Click here to view theaters and slides](#)



Phillips in *LensWork Extended* #117 *Divinations*

"This project was conceived while I was looking through a trunk of old family things my mom keeps, and I came across some cabinet cards. Cabinet cards are mounted albumen prints of portraits from the late 1800s that were wildly popular in their time. The photographer in me thought, 'Wow! Look at all that white space; that could work for photo-collage.' I began collecting cabinet cards and simultaneously thinking about what imagery I'd like to add."

Back issues of *LensWork Extended* perpetually [available here](#).

