

**Visual Arts****Snapshot: 'Séance' by Shannon Taggart**

The collection illuminates the objects that are integral to spiritualist practices such as cutlery, radios and handkerchiefs



'The utensils Willa White bent with her mind' (2002) © Shannon Taggart

Madeleine Pollard SEPTEMBER 20 2019

Almost 20 years ago, Shannon Taggart travelled to the hamlet of Lily Dale in New York State to photograph America's largest spiritualist community. She did not foresee the fascination that would take hold. Transfixed by spiritualism's history and the challenge of capturing its charged atmosphere, she has been documenting fragments of this subculture ever since.

*Séance* illuminates the objects that are integral to spiritualist practices. Cutlery, radios and handkerchiefs are among the strange assortment of household items harnessed to bridge the gap between living and dead.

By experimenting with chiaroscuro and exposure, Taggart casts these objects in an otherworldly light, haunting the viewer with a sense of the uncanny.

*'Séance' will be published by Fulgar Press in October. Selected images will be exhibited at The Gallery of Everything, London W1, September 29-November 24*

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