

## DANELLE MANTHEY: *Christmas USA*

December 9, 2010 - January 8, 2011 – The Project Room, New York



A childhood family ritual served as inspiration for **Danelle Manthey**'s series of photographs entitled ***Christmas USA***; every holiday season, her family loaded into the car and traveled around their South Dakota area, looking at houses covered in Christmas lights, much to the chagrin of Manthey, who would have preferred to be at home opening presents. When visiting her family as an adult, the renewed tradition sparked curiosity within the photographer, causing her to wonder about the people behind the lights. Manthey, who has twice been selected as Chashama's Artist in Residence, began documenting the families of these decorated homes in front of their masterpieces in December of 2003, and continues to do so each year at Christmastime, shooting in South Dakota, upstate New York, New Orleans, Florida, and New York City, among others. As Manthey states, her "images are but a glimpse into the world of [her] subjects. Identity and the question of individuality are the themes" that are pervasive within the series"; her ultimate goal is to communicate something about the subject and have it understood through the portrait process.

Manthey, who studied photography at Columbia College in Chicago, has been celebrated by: Hey, Hot Shot; the International Photography Award; and the New York Photo Festival, among others. She has shown widely throughout the United States at museums and galleries, and this will be her first solo show in Chelsea.

