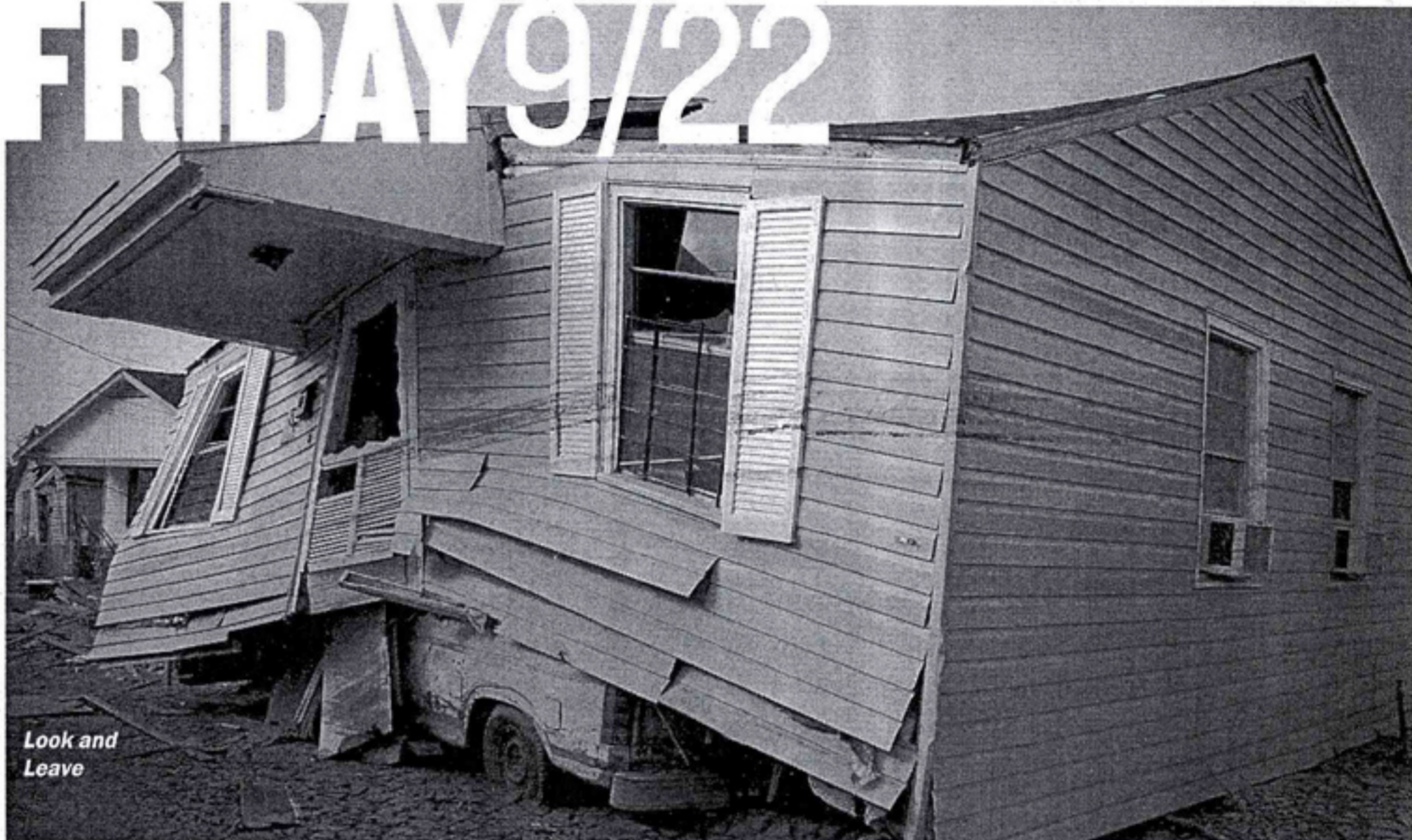


Houston Press

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Alt Media

Three days in post-Katrina New Orleans led to Jane Fulton Alt's self-described meltdown. Last November, the Chicago-area social worker accompanied Lower Ninth Ward residents back to their old neighborhood. Deemed structurally unsound, their damaged houses were set to be completely demolished. This was their chance to say good-bye. "There were a few people who were sui-

dal," Alt says. "Mostly, people were in mourning. Everyone needed to talk — everywhere I went in New Orleans." But even though she was just there for emotional support, Alt was overwhelmed by tragedy. As an accomplished photographer, her coping mechanism was to take pictures. The results form the basis of the 14-minute film *Look and Leave*. Katrina artwork and documentaries are ubiquitous these days, but Alt's work — which shows only debris and places, no residents — stands out. "People have told me that my photos are really, really beautiful," she says. "So that's how they may be different." Alt screens her film and shows her photos today at Houston Center for Photography as part of the exhibit "Trace (visions of Katrina)." 6 p.m. 1441 West Alabama. Through October 22. For information, call 713-529-4755 or visit www.hcponline.org. Free.

— RUTH SAMUELSON