PRESS RELEASE: 2020 WINTER/SPRING PROGRAM OF EXHIBITIONS
Winter: Terri Weifenbach solo show / Spring: Chloe Sells solo show

Terri WEIFENBACH: Photos/books
9 January-22 February 2020

Paris, 28 October 2019 - Galerie Miranda is delighted to present a solo exhibition of recent works by Terri Weifenbach (b. USA, 1957), the artist’s first solo show in France. The exhibition will feature selected prints from Weifenbach’s landmark series Des Oiseaux (2019), Centers of Gravity (2017) and The Politics of Flowers (2005). Given the importance in Weifenbach’s practice of bookmaking, the exhibition will also include rare artist books that will be exhibited alongside the prints. For the duration of the exhibition Terri Weifenbach will host at Galerie Miranda a cycle of private photobook-making ateliers for small groups, which will be open upon reservation on a first-come basis. Details will be communicated in December 2019.

Des Oiseaux (2019): Photographed in the garden of the artist’s home in Washington DC, the images in this series capture the secret life of the many species of birds that inhabit our cities. Often photographing at ground level, the artist reveals the dives and looping spirals of sparrows, finches, and warblers hidden in tree trunks and amongst the leaves. The changing seasons are captured through the evolving colours of the garden and the artist deploys both a blurred and an ultra-precise focus that construct an intimate observation into this small and delicate world.

Centers of Gravity (2017): When working on Des Oiseaux, Weifenbach was often intrigued by details and it was natural for her to find the gestures of the flying and standing birds worth noting for themselves. She chose to separate the birds from their background and print in black and white in order to bring full attention to the birds’ shapes, gestures and details. In the prints they are uniquely individual representations of a single moment. In the small softbound book, the sheer number of images, page after page, has the reader immersed as noted by Rinko Kawauchi: “The common sparrows suddenly come into view while we live out our everyday; when projected through Terri’s eyes, though, they almost act as mirrors — reflecting our own lives back to us.”

-------- Rinko Kawauchi

The Politics of Flowers (2005): “In 2003, Weifenbach came across Pressed Flowers from the Holy Land, 19th-century books of pressed flower books published from about 1886 to 1906 by a certain Reverend Harvey B. Greene who, along “with the assistance of native helpers,” gathered different species of wildflowers native to Palestine. The flowers were dried and carefully attached to the pages of the books, which were intended to be sold to raise funds for the missionaries. Over time, some flowers disappeared, leaving faint stains and smudges on the pages. Others, despite their britteness, remained intact. Mute testimony to the nurturing soil and sun of the Holy Land, the delicate flowers also invoke the meticulous labor of care-worn hands that cultivated and inserted them. For Weifenbach, however, the pressed flowers were meaningful in other ways: she understood them as containing the lives and especially the traces of the pain, sadness, and loss of all those “native helpers” who gathered them. And, as flowers that had been snatched from life and preserved in death, they embodied the transience of all life. By scanning and printing these delicate flowers as largescale black and white images, Weifenbach breathes new life into these century-old specimens.”

-------- Sarah Kennel, Keough Family Curator of Photography, High Museum of Art, Atlanta (US)

Artist books: The exhibition will include the presentation for acquisition of selected rare artist books produced by Weifenbach for over 20 years with some of the best American and European photobook publishers.

Artist biography

Bookmaking is central to Terri Weifenbach’s artistic practice. Since her first book, In Your Dreams, was published in 1997 she has authored eighteen more titles including Between Maple and Chestnut, Lana, Politics of Flowers and Gift (co-author Rinko Kawauchi). Publishers include Nazraeli Press, onestar Press and Loosestrife Press. Weifenbach’s Instruction Manual concept realized and initiated Nazraeli press’s One Picture Book series with #01, #03 and #04. In Your Dreams was included in The Photobook: A History Volume II (Martin Parr and Gerry Badger, 2006). In 2019 she published Des Oiseaux with Editions Xavier Barral, as part of the collection of the same name. She has had numerous solo and group exhibitions in the United States, Europe and Japan and published widely in periodicals such as Audubon, Union Magazine and The New Yorker. Terri’s first solo museum show took place in 2017 at Izu Photo Museum in Clematis no Oka, Japan. Her work can be found in international collections such as the Center for Creative Photography (Arizona), the Sprengel Museum (Germany) and the Collection Hermès in France. Weifenbach is also renowned as a teacher and, in addition to national and international workshops, she has taught at the Corcoran College of Art and Design, Georgetown University and as Lecturer at American University (Washington). Born in NYC, raised in Washington, DC and educated at the University of Maryland, Terri Weifenbach spent a dozen years from her early twenties living in New Mexico and California. She now resides in Paris, France. She is a Guggenheim Fellow having received the distinction in 2015.

http://www.terriweifenbach.com
SELECTED WORKS

TERRI WEIFENBACH, DES OISEAUX

Des Oiseaux 23 (2019)
Archival pigment print
Edition of 6
33 x 48 cm

Des Oiseaux 9 (2019)
Archival pigment print
Edition of 6
33 x 48 cm

Des Oiseaux 66 (2019)
Archival pigment print
Edition of 6
50.8 x 76.2 cm
TERRI WEIFENBACH, CENTERS OF GRAVITY

Centers of Gravity 66 (2017)
Archival pigment print
Edition of 6
20.3 x 25.4 cm

TERRI WEIFENBACH, THE POLITICS OF FLOWERS

Politics of Flowers, from Sequence one (8 images, 2005)
Archival pigment print
Edition of 6 (5 sequences + 1 set of singles)
29 x 35.5 cm
TERRI WEIFENBACH, SELECTED RARE ARTIST BOOKS IN THE EXHIBITION

IN YOUR DREAMS (text by Robert Adams)
Nazraeli Press, 1997

SNAKE EYES (with John Gossage)
Loosestrife editions, 2002

LANA
Nazraeli Press, 2005

THE POLITICS OF FLOWERS
OneStar Press, 2005

THE MAY SUN
Izu Photo Museum, 2017
Chloe Sells produced these recent works in the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, in the Kalahari Desert of Botswana:

"Driving into the searing heat of the white desert, I watched for the lone palm trees that line the banks of the unfaithful rivers, marking the beginning of the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. I turned onto a well-worn track that led to an expansive savannah. Carved out of the spiny grasses were two nearly invisible lines that faded as I drove until becoming dust. Just then, a shoreline presented itself. The water was opalescent with the reflection of the setting sun and thousands of birds filled the sky. The breeze reached me swollen with their calls.

The Makgadikgadi Salt Pans are in the Kalahari Desert of Botswana. Seen from space they look like white blemishes on the surface of the earth, birthmarks of time. I first came for the flamingos, but I returned for something else. I stood on the edge of the Pans asking myself whether to portray beauty for the sake of beauty. Dave Hickey says that, “The utility of beauty as a legitimate recourse resides in its ability to locate us as physical creatures in a live, ethical relationship with other human beings in the physical world.”

When full the Pans look like the sea, but within days the water can evaporate leaving cracked earth like the skin on an elephant’s back. Disorientation seizes you as every direction reveals an identical view. There are Kalahari lions somewhere in the distance – or perhaps close to hand, golden in the golden grasses.

Each time I visited the Pans a kaleidoscopic panorama unfolded around me, which I interpreted through days of taking photographs and later through months in the darkroom. The meditative approach of addressing the same landscape repeatedly allowed me to confront the finite within me while witnessing the infinite without.

With the complete removal of light, the silence of the darkroom is penetrating. As a result of bending the rules of photographic alchemy, image and imagination become entangled. The printing process is both considered and spontaneous. Despite the small space the work is physical. Repetition allows backwards and forwards movement through the flow of time and memory. Color reinterprets emotion. Imposed textures retrace geographic contours. Crooked edges are a result of cutting 50 metre rolls of paper in the dark and are left on the final images as a reminder that the view of the world through our eyes is not rectangular. Some images are drawn on with a combination of ink, paint and marker. In each telling there is play between the immutable and the supple and every picture is unique."

The artist book SWAMP (pub. Gost books, 2016) presents the entire body of this work.

**Artist biography**

Chloe Sells was born in Aspen, Colorado and began photographing in 1993. She attended the Rhode Island School of Design and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography. She completed her Masters in Fine Art from Central St. Martins London. Her work has been exhibited internationally in multiple solo and group exhibitions. She has published two acclaimed books, SWAMP (2016) and Flamingo (2017), both published by GOST Books. She currently lives between her darkroom in London and her home in Maun, Botswana.

Chloe photographs with a Contax 645 and Linhof 4x5. She still uses film and prints all of her work in the darkroom, by hand. Each of her works is a unique analogue C-type print, using conventional negatives overlaid with abstract colour, light, texture and patterns in the darkroom. In some instances, after printing, she draws into the surface of her photographs with paint, ink and marker.

www.chloesells.com
SELECTED WORKS BY CHLOE SELLS

Chloe SELLS
The Form, 2017
C-type print
168 x 106 cm
Unique
Chloe SELLS
The Whisperers, 2016
C-type print
93.5 x 113 cm
Unique

Chloe SELLS
Time Being, 2017
C-type print
93.5 x 116 cm
Unique
Chloe SELLS
Shadow At Morning, 2017
C-type print
93.5 x 113 cm
Unique

Chloe SELLS
A Heap Of Broken Images, 2016
C-type print
93.5 x 116 cm
Unique
Galerie Miranda : À propos

Galerie Miranda was founded in 2018 by Miranda Salt, French-Australian who has lived and worked in the 10th arrondissement since her arrival in France in 1995. Specialised in fine art photography, the gallery presents international artists and works celebrated in their own country but little known in France and Europe. Inaugurated on International Women’s Day 2018, the gallery’s inaugural cycle of exhibitions featured solo presentations by prominent women artists Jo Ann Callis, Nancy Wilson-Pajic, Marina Berio and Ellen Carey. In autumn 2018, the gallery presented a solo exhibition by John Chiara followed by the double show A ma fenêtre: André Kertész/Arne Svenson as well as participating in Paris Photo with a solo show by Jo Ann Callis. Opening 2019 with the celebrated series Dirty Windows by Merry Alpern, Galerie Miranda participated in Photo London 2019 with a solo show of works by Ellen Carey. Also programmed in 2019, the two group shows Women in Colour and Landscape, Memory featured blue-chip artists presented, for the most part, for the first time in France. In summer this year, the gallery was invited by the prestigious Villa Benkemoun (Arles) to inaugurate its cultural season with a double exhibition of works by Alpern and Carey.

Galerie Miranda is also a bookshop with a curated selection of publications on photography in French and English: monographs, artist publications, critical texts, biographies and catalogues. Galerie Miranda is situated in Paris’ vibrant 10th arrondissement at 21 rue du Château d’Eau, close to the Place de la République and 100 metres from the former site, on rue Léon Jouhaux, of Louis Daguerre’s wonderful Diorama and laboratory, destroyed by fire in 1839.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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