

PRESS RELEASE

Summer show

Landscape, Memory:

selected works by
Marina BERIO, John CHIARA, Gérard DALLA SANTA, Chloe SELLS

10 July – 6 August 2019

Vernissage 11 July 5-9 pm

For its last show before summer, Galerie Miranda presents selected works on the theme of landscape and memory, loosely inspired by the texts of historian Simon Schama for whom culture and nature, in the western world, are deeply linked by myths, belief systems, memory and the practice of everyday life, the meaning of which lies deep under the soil of the most banal landscapes (Simon Schama, *Landscape and Memory*, 1995). The gallery presents the works of four artists whose distinctive styles range between dreamscapes, reality and experimental interpretation through photographic process:

... **CHLOE SELLS** lives and works between Botswana and London, photographing the African landscape with large format cameras and then developing her films in a London darkroom. Sells makes unique prints of her images, with an experimental and intuitive darkroom process applying successive layers of colour, materials and also ink and paint. Full of form, movement, colour and emotion, the works presented for this exhibition were produced at a complex moment in the artist's life marked by mourning and birth. The works presented in this exhibition are from the series, *The Form That Strength Has Left*, photographed in the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, in the Kalahari Desert of Botswana. While in the grips of a particularly poignant moment in her life, the artist found solace in the vast landscapes that mirrored her internal contradictions and associations. The horizon line which scores each image symbolizes that which is fixed and determined in life—being born and dying. This line, however, is also a reference to the cyclical nature of life. If we were to walk towards the horizon we would eventually come back to the place we began. The unique forms, shapes and colors that overlay the landscape reinterpret the absolute infinitely.

... **GERARD DALLA SANTA**: the photographs presented at the gallery proceed from his research into landscape that is anchored in two traditions: documentary photography and that of the outdoor landscape painters (Corot, Courbet, Pissarro and Cézanne...) whose work took into account the topography as well as the historical and collective dimension of landscape. In these recent landscapes of river banks, proximity and the everyday create a new lyricism. The human forms in the image are so immersed in the landscape that they are unaware of its beauty. For Gerard Dalla Santa, these images do not evoke a nostalgia for things past but are instead a proposal for the repairing of a damaged world.

... **JOHN CHIARA**; in search of 'ordinary America', Chiara draws upon the long history of American landscape photography (Muybridge, Weston, Cunningham, Adams). After months spent crisscrossing the states of Mississippi and California, his caravan-sized hand built dark room mounted on a flatbed truck, Chiara makes unique, large format *camera obscura* photographs that are seized directly on the photographic paper. With their long exposure time, accidents and movement leave a trail in the final image and the most banal landscapes are transformed into cinematographic tableaux that are simultaneously fixed and moving: trees and sun that shift across the sky ; birds, clouds and cars that travel in front of the lens, like the layered successive images of a film or a fleeting memory.

... **MARINA BERIO**, whose work constantly evolves between photography and drawing, emotion and composition. Her large format charcoal drawing, inspired by a photographic negative, draws us into a blurred dreamscape, a broad curving road that disappears into a dense fog;



Chloe SELLS
On The Turning Away, 2017
Unique handmade chromogenic print
93,5 x 105,5 cm



Chloe SELLS
Time Being, 2017
Unique handmade chromogenic print
93,5 x 116 cm



Chloe Sells
The Big Oh, 2016
Unique handmade chromogenic print with ink
10 x 12 cm



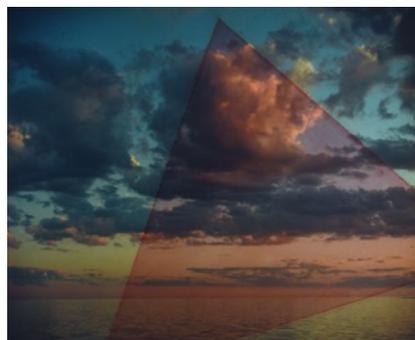
Chloe Sells
Heat, 2017
Unique handmade chromogenic print with ink
10 x 12 cm



Chloe Sells
Get Lost, 2017
Unique handmade chromogenic print with ink
10 x 12 cm



Chloe Sells
Handsome Boy, 2015
Unique handmade chromogenic print with ink
10 x 12 cm



Chloe Sells
Leave me like this, 2017
Unique handmade chromogenic print with ink
10 x 12 cm



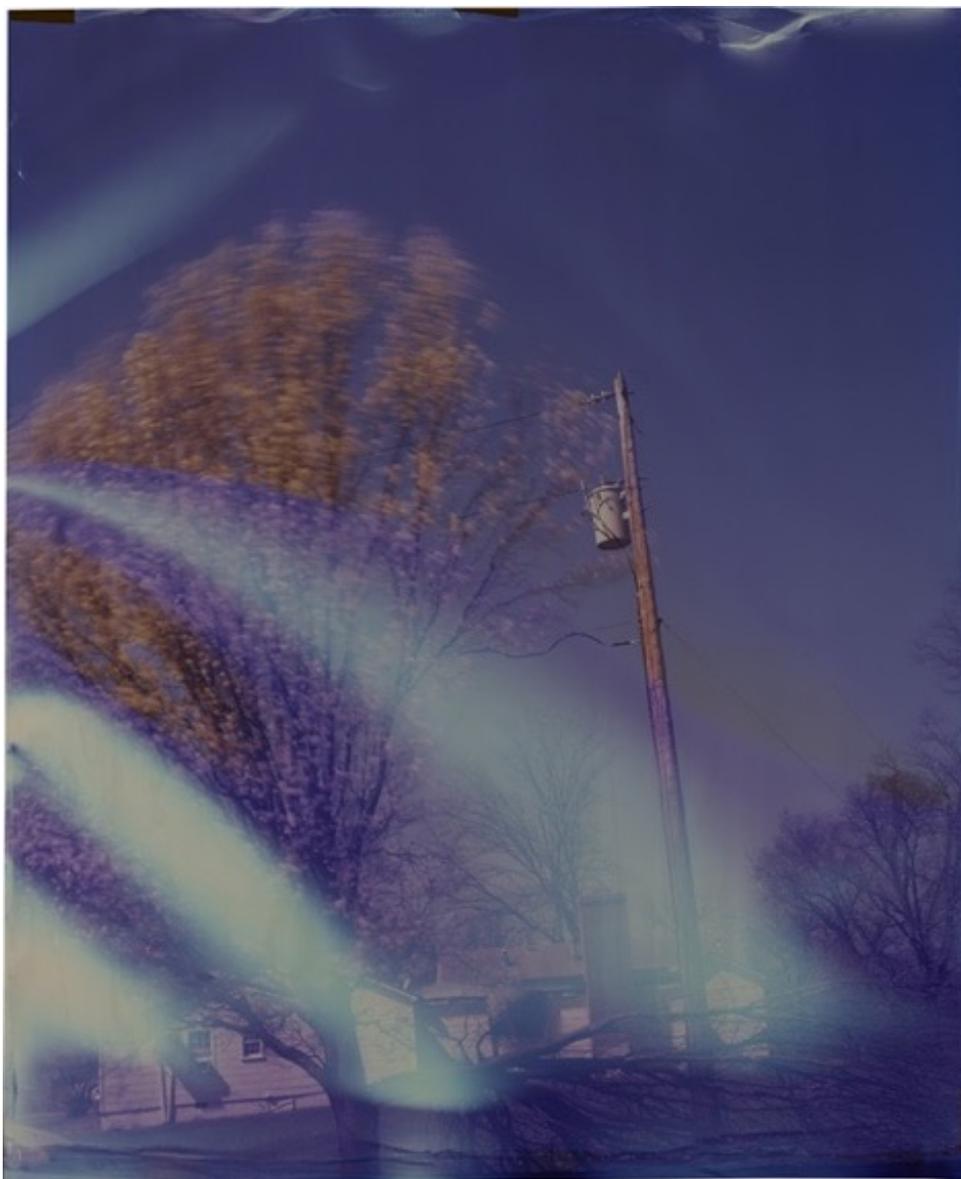
Gérard DALLA SANTA
Sans titre (Bourgogne), 2016
Digital print on FineArt Canson paper
Limited edition of 5
100 x 66 cm



Gérard DALLA SANTA
Sans titre (Bourgogne), 2015
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John CHIARA
Steen at Oakhurst, 2014
Mississippi series
Unique photograph on Ilfochrome paper
85 x 69 cm



John CHIARA
Payne at Stovell, 2014
Mississippi series
Unique photograph on Ilfochrome paper
85 x 69 cm



John CHIARA
Henry Mayo at Chiquita, 2012
California series (Los Angeles)
Unique photograph on Ilfochrome paper
85 x 66 cm



Marina BERIO
Through and Not 65, 2010
Charcoal drawing on paper
71,1 x 106,7 cm

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

MARINA BERIO (b. 1956, USA)

Marina Berio is a visual artist from New York City. She studied photography, drawing, sculpture and art history in college, obtaining her MFA in Photography at Bard College. Marina Berio has been awarded grants by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Pollock/Krasner Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Aaron Siskind Foundation, and been invited to various residencies including the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, Millay and Schloss Plüschow. She has exhibited at various art spaces internationally, including Michael Steinberg Fine Arts, Von Lintel Gallery, Yossi Milo Gallery, and Artists Space in New York; Judy Ann Goldman Fine Art in Boston; Les Rencontres d'Arles, Galerie Camera Obscura in Paris; and Otto Zoo and Acta International in Italy. Berio teaches at the International Center of Photography in New York. Galerie Miranda presented a solo exhibition of her works in June 2018.

JOHN CHIARA (b. 1971, USA)

John Chiara grew up in San Francisco, where he lives and works today. Receiving his B.F.A. in Photography from the University of Utah in 1995, and his M.F.A. in Photography from the California College of the Arts in 2004, John Chiara was notably one of seven artists featured in the landmark exhibition *Light, Paper, Process, Reinventing Photography* (2015), curated by Virginia Heckert at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. In 2016, Chiara's work was included in *A matter of memory: photography as object in the digital age* at the George Eastman Museum in Rochester, New York. John Chiara's photographs feature in public and private collections including the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; the George Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY; the Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee, WI; the Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, CA and the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas.

GERARD DALLA SANTA (b. 1947, France)

Interested in mobility and movement, Gérard Dalla Santa is largely influenced by street photography and American underground literature. His first photographic works date from 1978 and featured urban scenes, the banks of the Seine river, vistas of highways. Since 1993, he has also explored these themes in the USA, drawing upon personal references that include Walker Evans, Lee Friedlander, Robert Adams. From 2000 he broadened his field to include representations of work, bringing a poetic and delicate reading the body and its gestures within the context of labour. In 2015 he was awarded a grant from the CNAP (Centre National des Arts Plastiques), towards a project on the city of Pittsburgh, its industrial heritage within the urban tissue and the city's permanent cycle of demolition and construction. Since the 90s, Gérard Dalla Santa has focused mainly on landscape work, considering mankind's transformative effect on the landscape, memory space and coexistence across time. He first explored the southwest region of France, the greater Paris region where country and city overlap, but also the landscapes of Pennsylvania in the USA. Gérard Dalla Santa received several institutional grants and commissions to produce the works featuring in the publication *Les Campagnes Urbaines* (Pierre Donadieu, Actes Sud, 1998). His recent landscapes consider places in which the interaction between man and nature is one of immersion, both lending a use value to the landscape and anchoring it in time. Gérard Dalla Santa has participated in numerous personal and group exhibitions in France and in Europe and his works figure in the permanent collections of the Centre Pompidou, the Frac Aquitaine, the Frac Midi-Pyrénées, the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain and the Fondation d'Entreprise Hermès.

CHLOE SELLS (b. 1976, USA)

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.

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