

M + B

Art Los Angeles Contemporary 2012
Booth D6
19 - 22 January 2012

MATTHEW BRANDT



Matthew Brandt (b. 1982, Los Angeles) received his BFA from Cooper Union in 2004 and MFA from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) in 2008. Interested in physicality, process and landscape, Brandt's ability to stretch the readings of an image, multiplying them both physically and conceptually, speaks directly to his interest in how images loom and meanings shift within a shared visual history. His *Lakes and Reservoirs* reflect the artist's engagement with the great American landscape photographers, but with an ease, humor and youthful energy. Whether creating sodium gum bichromate prints of bees from a pigment created from the bees themselves, or leaving photographs of lakes soaking in the water of their source, his subject matter visually and physically informs the work. It is all part of Brandt's continual investigation into

the charge that imbues meaning within an image. His work is the clever manifestation of a photographic alchemist, satisfying the urge for the tangible and grounding us in the present. Brandt's precocious talent has landed him in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the Armand Hammer Museum (Los Angeles), the Elton John Collection and the Staitoi Collection. His recent solo exhibition at M+B was met with critical attention, selected by *Modern Painters* as part of "The 100 Best Fall Shows." Brandt currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

SAM FALLS

Sam Falls (b. 1984, San Diego, CA) received his BA from Reed College in 2007 and MFA from ICP-Bard in 2010. Recognizing the inherent linkage between painting, photography and sculpture, and striving to expand the mediums, Falls breaks down photographic content into form and color and back again. Whether photographing abstract compositions in his studio, or moving through the Met aesthetically framing paintings and sculptures the way a photographer would capture a landscape or portrait, Falls aims to negate the single isolated moment of a photograph's creation. The final products are an amalgamation of three stages of production: photographic, digital and physical. The viewer is not looking at a photograph depicting the past, but at a multimedia composition where the subject becomes the artistic production. This dynamism is celebrated in a recent review by critic Roberta Smith in *The New York Times* as she recognizes the "push-pull energy" and "thoroughly ambiguous, lushly radiant [and] slightly hallucinatory" nature of his work. His most recent installation at High Desert Test Sites, organized by Andrea Zittel in Joshua Tree, California, involved draping dyed fabric in the remnants of homestead cabins that dot the high desert landscape. The result is still forming, interpreting the idea of the photograph: embedded with time and light, precipitation, air, earth and vegetation. Falls is the 2010 recipient of the Tierney Fellowship, and his work has been exhibited in the US and abroad, including a solo exhibition at Fotografiska (Stockholm). He currently has two monographs published of his work: *Color Dying Light* (2009) and *Paint Paper Palms* (2011). Falls lives and works in Los Angeles.



MATTHEW PORTER



Matthew Porter (b. 1975, Pennsylvania) received his BA from Bard College in 1998 and his MFA from Bard College and Bard-ICP in 2006. His work often features historical mash-ups, collapsing disparate events and cultural references within single frames or spreading them out over a series of tightly edited photographs. A master of the photographic medium, Porter meticulously constructs the perfect picture, skillfully acknowledging the influence and presence of cinema. His three recent *Von Sternberg House* works physically and visually layer imagery investigating the layers and depths of shifting perceptions within recent American history. The starting point of the works is a direct nod to the presence of past print media and its role in accessing a past place no longer physically present but culturally imprinted. Recent exhibitions include a solo show at Invisible Exports in New York, and he was included in the International Center of Photography's *Perspectives 2010*. In 2010, he curated shows at Mount Tremper Arts in upstate New York and M+B in Los Angeles. Porter lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.