

# M+B

## ARTSCENE™

### Mariah Robertson: "Photography Lovers' Peninsula" at M+B

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Mariah Robertson, installation view of "The Photography Lovers' Peninsula," 2015, is currently on view at M+B Art.

**Mariah Robertson's** installation of large-scale, chemically-treated photo abstractions pushes the boundaries and context of photography from seemingly every direction. "The Photography Lovers' Peninsula" of the show's title is composed of 14 framed, chemically expressionistic pieces of exposed RA-4 photo paper

— horizontals and verticals, the longest of which reaches up to over 11 feet — that wrap around the midpoint of the two galleries, complete with three-row, squared, bleacher-style benches on the walls of each space, implicitly for viewing. Robertson has carved a substantial niche within contemporary photography, and art, by extending her exposed photo-paper experiments into such formats as spiraling rolls that stand upright, and more over-the-top configurations that cascade from ceiling to floor and back up again. Though each piece here, on its own, potentially affords equitable levels of quasi-aesthetic engagement, with hottish pinks as well as cyans featured most prominently, their condensed collective cacophony, butting up against and on top of each other, pushes the experience of the work away from the visually contemplative and toward the ideas, which stem from rejections of prim photographic traditions. In that light, the show's title underlines yet another rejection of expectations in the photograph-to-viewer dynamic, as if to say, "Take that, tight-ass photo purists!" (M+B Art, West Hollywood)

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