

# M+B

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## MATTHEW BRANDT *AgX.Hb*

February 24 – March 31, 2018

### Opening Reception

Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 6 to 8 pm

**M+B** is pleased to announce *AgX.Hb*, Matthew Brandt's fourth solo exhibition at the gallery. The show will present new works from the artist's recent *Silver* series, in addition to the debut of the *Heidelberg Blankets*. The exhibition runs from February 24 to March 31, 2018, with an opening reception on Saturday, February 24 from 6 to 8 pm.

Process is a driving force in how Matthew Brandt makes his pictures. A common thread in his work has been collaborating with his subjects and allowing their materials to help dictate their own image outcome. In his *Silver* series, Brandt extends the limits of black and white photography (in its near obsolescence in the digital age) by utilizing the materials that are inherent to that process and experimenting with the elements' shape shifting nature.

Silver has become synonymous with black and white photographic printing—it is the precious metal that harnessed our vision and allowed us to see ourselves. For this series, Brandt photographed the forest landscape, focusing on the vertical stagger of giant trees for his large format traditional silver gelatin prints. Mounted onto aluminum, the works are applied with a layer of silver solution, obscuring the images in places and creating an all-over mirrored effect. Upon this reflective surface, the viewer sees both themselves and the photographed image, and a shift in the photographic subject occurs. Viewer and photograph coexist within the frame, and through the nature of depth perception, the focus oscillates between photograph and reflection, background and foreground. The imaginary space of the photographed moment is interchanged with the real and the present.

The exhibition also marks the debut of Matthew Brandt's *Heidelberg Blankets*. These vibrantly hued textiles contain images of working hands and various studio objects, all intricately embroidered onto the fabric.

Brandt found the base fabric material for this series at the Damiani printing plant in Bologna, Italy in 2014. There for the printing of his *Lakes and Reservoirs* book, Brandt also had the opportunity to learn about the publisher's exceptionally large Heidelberg offset lithographic printer. So large and complex that it fills an entire warehouse, the printer has the sole job of neatly applying ink to paper. A major part of this task is devoted to cleaning the multitude of rollers with a specially engineered blanket material that runs through the machine. The rollers leave linear impressions on the baby blue blankets, one color at a time, cyan, magenta, yellow and black.

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Brandt collected the blankets that cleaned the excess ink from his book. Embroidered onto these blankets are snapshots from the studio—his hands, his father's screwdriver, a crowbar that he was robbed with, a friend's iPhone and a crumpled love letter. Such a slowed down image-making process, with each thread mark considered and meticulously made, contrasts with the repeated striations that the printer so rapidly reproduced. These pictures are documents of their own making, and oscillate between the slow and fast, handmade and mechanical.

**Matthew Brandt** (b. 1982, Los Angeles, CA) received his BFA from Cooper Union and MFA from UCLA. Brandt has been the subject of institutional solo shows at the Columbus Museum of Art, Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art and SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah. Recent group exhibitions include *The Magic Medium* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; *Light, Paper, Process: Reinventing Photography* at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; *Second Chances* at the Aspen Art Museum; *What is a Photograph?* at the International Center of Photography, New York; and *Land Marks* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. In addition to a forthcoming solo exhibition at the Newark Museum in 2019, Brandt's work will also be on view in *New Territory: Landscape Photography Today* at the Denver Art Museum in June 2018. His work can currently be seen in the group exhibition, *A Fire That No Water Could Put Out: Civil Rights Photography* at the High Museum in Atlanta. Brandt was recently shortlisted for the prestigious Prix Pictet award and had his work showcased in an exhibition at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. His work can be found in the permanent collections of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; and Brooklyn Museum of Art, among others. Matthew Brandt lives and works in Los Angeles.



Location:	<b>M+B</b> , 612 North Almont Drive, Los Angeles, California 90069
Show Title:	<i>Matthew Brandt: AgX.Hb</i>
Exhibition Dates:	February 24 – March 31, 2018
Opening Reception:	Saturday, February 24, 6 – 8 pm
Gallery Hours:	Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm

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