

M+B

Art Brussels 2011: Booth 3A-03

28 April – 1 May 2011

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. *Taste Tests* and *Lakes and Reservoirs* reflect the artist's engagement with the great American landscape photographers, but with an ease, humor and youthful energy. Whether silk screening his own photograph of the Half Dome in Yosemite—an iconic image of the American West—with Cheez Whiz, Mint Jelly and other pedestrian condiments, 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) and the Elton John Collection. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

ANDREW BUSH

Andrew Bush graduated from Yale University with an MFA in Photography in 1982 and has been pursuing the *Vector Portraits* series since he moved to Los Angeles in 1989. Captured on the expansive roadways of Los Angeles and across the West, the work speaks to a democratic American ideal—not just that of the open road, but the personal vehicular space sacred to Angelenos who spend so much time ensconced en route. Bush's photographs allow access into those private moments, defying the fleeting nature of car culture. The viewer holds the privileged role of voyeur, observing and surveilling the, oftentimes, unaware subjects. The *Vector Portraits* series has been exhibited extensively in solo and group shows, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), Davis Museum and Cultural Center at Wellesley College (Wellesley, Massachusetts) and Staatliche Kunsthalle (Baden-Baden, Germany). Bush's work is held in prominent public collections such as the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago), Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), Museum of Modern Art (New York), Museum of Fine Arts (Houston), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, George Eastman House (Rochester, New York) and Victoria & Albert Museum (London). In 2008, Yale University Press published his monograph *Drive*, which includes an interview by Jeff L. Rosenheim, the Curator of Photography at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Andrew Bush 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 wherein the subject becomes the artistic production. This dynamism is celebrated in a recent review by critic Roberta Smith as she recognizes the "push-pull energy" and "thoroughly ambiguous, lushly radiant, [and] slightly

hallucinatory" nature of his work in her article for the *The New York Times*. Falls lives and works in Brooklyn, New York and has had multiple solo shows in New York City and abroad. He currently has two monographs published of his work: *Color Dying Light* (2009) and *Paint Paper Palms* (2011).

ALEX PRAGER

Alex Prager (b. 1979, United States) is a self-taught photographer and filmmaker who lives and works in Los Angeles. Inspired by the high drama of classic movies, Prager's heroines barely conceal pain beneath their lipstick-lined smiles and dead eyes. Her work is largely informed by Los Angeles, with its perpetual blue skies and birds singing from imported palm trees, and exudes an underlying sense of eerie monotony and unease that runs counter with their exquisite surfaces and the remote promise of happiness. Prager has had solo exhibitions in Los Angeles, New York, London and Tokyo, and in 2010, she was selected as one of four artists included in the prestigious *New Photography 2010* exhibition of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York. Her work is held in collections of the Whitney Museum (New York), MoMA (New York), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), Cincinnati Art Museum, Kunsthau (Zurich), Moderna Museet (Stockholm) and the North Carolina Museum of Art.

