

M + B

ART BRUSSELS 2012: Stand 3D-05

18 - 23 April 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. Brandt's work has the sensibilities of a classical romantic imbued with an air of playfulness and humor that expands across his disrupted photographic surfaces. His *Lakes and Reservoirs* reflect the artist's engagement with the tradition of great American landscape photographers, but with a contemporary presentation that speaks to Brandt's interests in materiality and process. Prints are soaked in the water from the bodies they depict, breaking open and down the usually pristine photographic surface. The disrupted photographic plane pulls the framed landscape out of the isolated past and into the present. 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, The UBS Art Collection and the Statoil Collection. His first solo exhibition this past fall at M+B was met with critical attention, selected by *Modern Painters* as part of "The 100 Best Fall Shows" and reviewed in the December/January issue. Brandt was also named as "The Top 30 Under 30 in Art and Design" for *Forbes* by Jeffrey Deitch. Brandt currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

SAM FALLS



Sam Falls (b. 1984, San Diego) 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 and merge the mediums, Falls breaks down photographic content into form and color and back again. 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. His recent linen works exhibited at Art Brussels reflect the artist's bold color choices. Energetic brush strokes, both digital and physical, frame photographs of abstract studio compositions—the starting point for future sculptures. These works exemplify Falls' interest in pulling the image from its isolated past and recognizing its future potential. 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) and participation in High Desert Test Sites (Joshua Tree, CA). He currently has four monographs published of his work: *Val Verde* (2011), *Paint Paper Palms* (2011), *Visible Library* (2011) and *Color Dying Light* (2009). Falls was listed as one of *Modern Painters* "100 Artists to Watch," chosen for *ARTFORUM's* "Best of 2011 - Critics' Pick" and named as one of the "Top 30 Under 30 in Art and Design" for *Forbes* by Jeffrey Deitch. Falls currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

ALEX PRAGER



Alex Prager (b. 1979, Los Angeles) is a self-taught artist who lives and works in Los Angeles, California. Prager's new work furthers her exploration of subversive narratives through the construction of "scenes" inspired by media tragedies and paired with emotive close-ups of eyes. The eyes, whether interpreted as belonging to the viewer or the subject, operate as a mode of investigation — an aid to decoding the scenes and implicating the viewer by provoking an emotional response. In 2009, Prager presented her debut short film, *Despair*, and her follow-up *La Petite Mort* was just released this month. Featured in MoMA's *New Photography 2010*, Prager's work has been exhibited at galleries and institutions worldwide, and her photographs are included in the permanent collection of several major museums including the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Moderna Museet (Stockholm). Prager currently has four monographs published of her work: *Compulsion* (2012), *Big Valley – Week-end* (2009), *Polyester* (2007) and *The Book of Despair* (2005).

KOHEI YOSHIYUKI



Shot in three Tokyo parks during the early seventies, **Kohei Yoshiyuki's** (b. 1946, Japan) *The Park* is a series of black and white photographs capturing couples meeting up for clandestine trysts and, more provocatively, the voyeurs who came out to watch them. Mr. Yoshiyuki first stumbled upon this hidden world while photographing skyscrapers in front of Chuo Park in Shinjuku at night when he witnessed a couple having sex and quickly discovered an entire scene of young lovers—and their peepers. He soon returned with an inconspicuous 35mm camera, a filtered flash and infrared film, and began shooting these hetero- and homosexual couplings, along with their spectators lurking in the bushes. The raw snapshot-like quality of the photographs uncovers both the hidden sexual exploits of their subjects as well as the complicated and layered role of a voyeur's transformation into subject, serving as a chronicle of a Japan we rarely see. As Martin Parr writes in *The Photobook: A History, Volume II*, *The Park* is "a brilliant piece of social documentation, capturing perfectly the loneliness, sadness, and desperation that so often accompany sexual or human relationships in a big, hard metropolis like Tokyo." Kohei Yoshiyuki currently lives and works in Japan and his work is held in Brooklyn Museum (Brooklyn, NY); Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, NY); Museum of Contemporary Photography (Chicago, IL); Museum of Fine Arts (Houston, TX); Museum of Modern Art (New York, NY); North Carolina Museum of Art (Raleigh, NC); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (San Francisco, CA) and the Swedish Art Council (Stockholm, Sweden).