

M+B

20 YEAR PHOTO
ANNIVERSARY

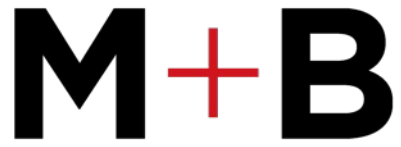
MATTHEW BRANDT
January Skies



MATTHEW BRANDT

Matthew Brandt creates his artworks using physical elements derived from the very scenes he photographs. Much of Brandt's oeuvre is composed of the objects it portrays. Prints may be soaked in water from the lakes they depict, or the pigments affixed to the print may originate from charcoal made from trees within the image. At times, the artist's process extends to rendering night skies in cocaine on black velvet or baking tar-based images in the sun. This engagement with the natural world and derived materials also introduces an element of chance to Brandt's work, as the media resist control and give rise to new, unexpected features.

Matthew Brandt (b. 1982, Los Angeles, CA) received his BFA from Cooper Union and MFA from UCLA. The artist has been the subject of numerous institutional solo shows, including *Light & Matter: The Art of Matthew Brandt* at the Forest Lawn Museum, CA; *Orphic Forest*, Erarta Museum of Contemporary Art, Saint Petersburg, Russia; *Rocks and Eagles* at the Newark Museum, NJ; *Sticky/Dusty/Wet* at the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus OH, which travelled to the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach, VA and SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA. Recent museum group exhibitions include *Desert Forest: Life with Joshua Trees*, Lancaster Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA; *Second Nature: Photography in the Age of the Anthropocene* at the Nasher Museum of Art, Durham, NC (traveling); *Ansel Adams in Our Time*, de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco, CA (traveling); *New Territory: Landscape Photography Today* at the Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO; *The Magic Medium* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; *Light, Paper, Process: Reinventing Photography* at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA; *Second Chances* at the Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO; *What is a Photograph?* at the International Center of Photography, New York, NY; and *Land Marks* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY. Brandt recently received the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship Award in the discipline of Photography. His work can be found in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Art Gallery of South Wales, Sydney, Australia; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; Cincinnati Art Museum; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Royal Danish Library, National Museum of Photography, Copenhagen; Denver Art Museum; High Museum, Atlanta; Detroit Institute of Arts; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; and the Columbus Museum of Art, among others. Matthew Brandt lives and works in Los Angeles.



20 YEAR PHOTO
ANNIVERSARY

MATTHEW BRANDT

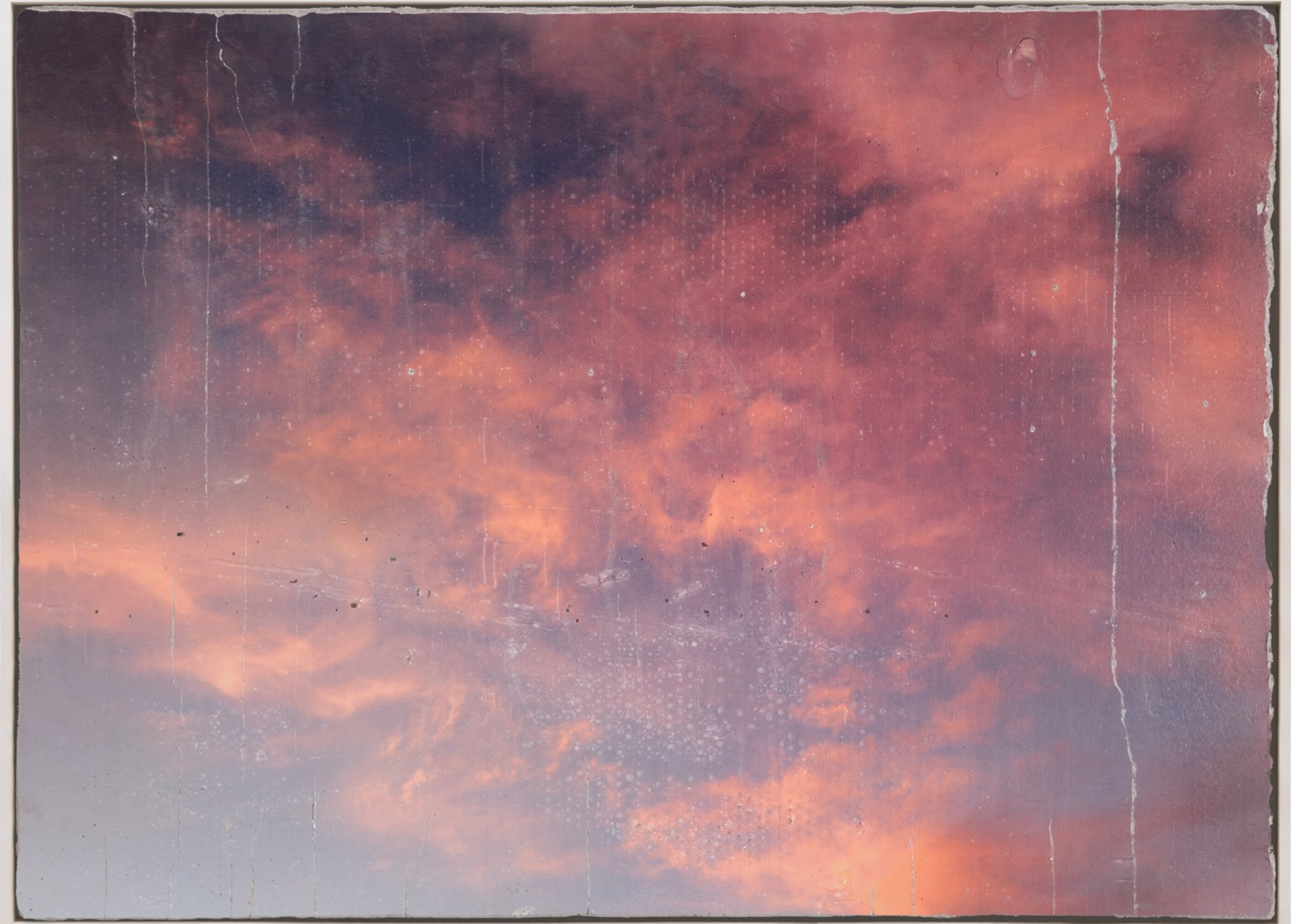
January Skies

This year we are celebrating 20 years of M+B. Every two weeks throughout the summer, we're highlighting a photographer whose work helped define the gallery's early program. Long before we became known for contemporary art, M+B began as a photography gallery—one that championed artists pushing the medium in new, culturally resonant directions. These photographers weren't just documenting the world; they were embedding themselves in it, using unorthodox materials and techniques to create something visceral, immediate, and undeniably of their time.

Our next spotlight is on Matthew Brandt, whose experimental practice and enduring relationship with Los Angeles have made him one of the gallery's most singular voices. Since his first show with us in 2011, Brandt has fused rigorous technique with elemental forces—using everything from lake water and charcoal to Coca-Cola and wildfire ash to shape his images.

This new body of work continues his exploration of the LA landscape through a technique developed in his *Freeway* series, now turned skyward. Using plaster-based fresco methods, Brandt captures the winter sunsets over Los Angeles, translating the fleeting light and heavy air of the season into tactile, layered compositions. Each piece begins with photographic imagery transferred onto wet plaster, which then warps, cracks, and settles into its final form. The result is a series of atmospheric panels that feel both ancient and eerily current—monuments to a city in perpetual flux.

Brandt's winter skies hover between memory and observation, conjuring the exact hues of dusk after a rainy December day, or the burnt pink that lingers over a freeway at rush hour. Like much of his work, these pieces are haunted by time—weathered, fractured, and deeply felt. They don't just depict the LA sky; they contain it.

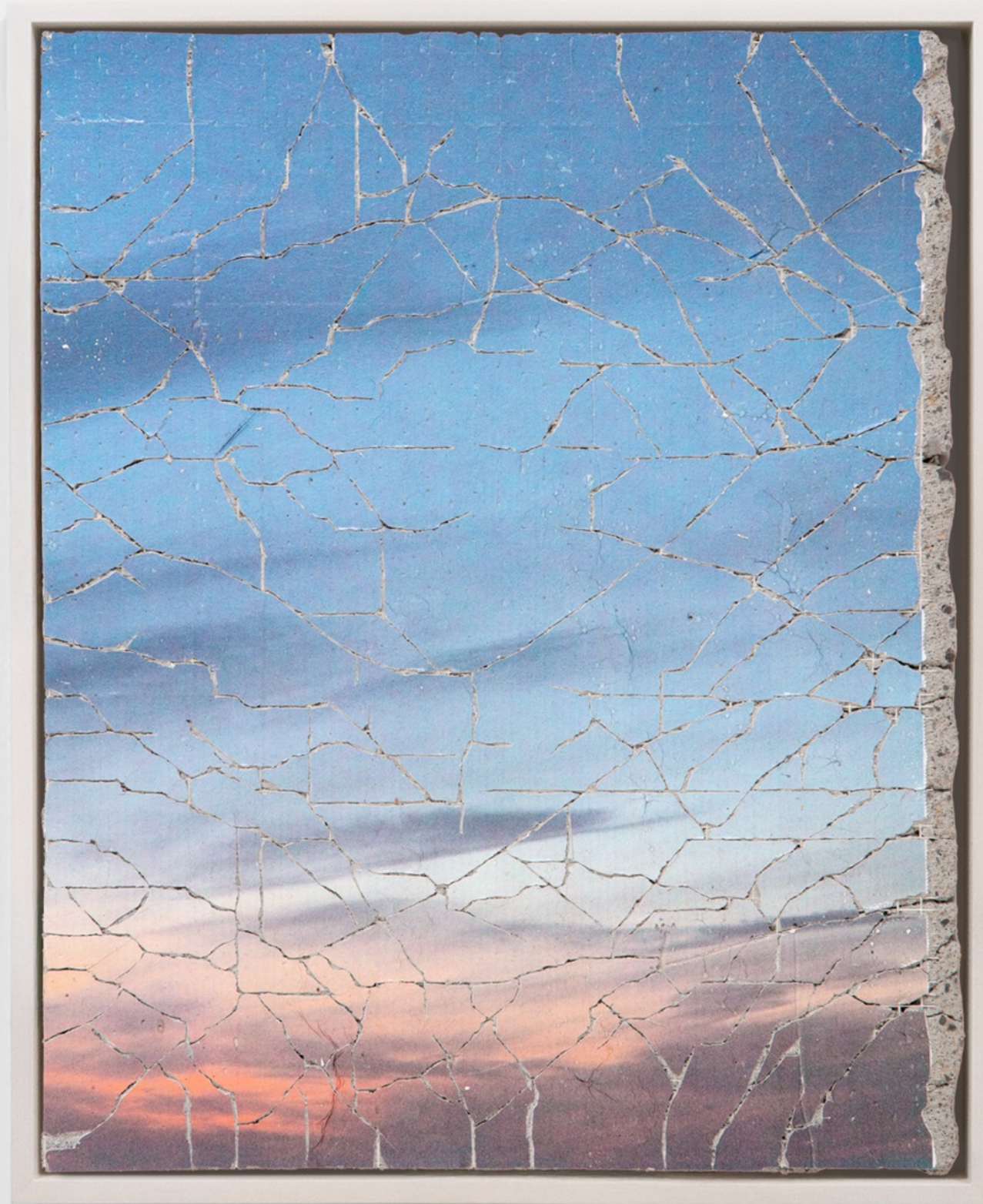


Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XXIV*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 22 x 30 3/4 inches (55.9 x 78.1 cm)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky III*, 2025
(installation view)





Matthew Brandt | *January Sky III*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 12 x 9 1/2 inches (30.5 x 24.1 cm)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky III*, 2025
(detail)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky VI*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 17 1/4 x 23 3/4 inches (43.8 x 60.3 cm)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XVII*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 11 3/4 x 23 inches (29.8 x 58.4 cm)



100

0.000

Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XVII*, 2025
(detail)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XXIII*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 15 3/4 x 28 3/4 inches (40 x 73 cm)





Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XXIX*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 11 1/4 x 13 1/2 inches (28.6 x 34.3 cm)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XXXII*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 10 1/4 x 13 3/4 inches (26 x 34.9 cm)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XIII*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 18 1/4 x 27 1/2 inches (46.4 x 69.8 cm)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XIII*, 2025
(installation view)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XIII*, 2025
(detail)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XXXXIX*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 13 3/4 x 14 1/4 inches (34.9 x 36.2 cm)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XXXXXII*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 9 1/4 x 13 1/2 inches (23.5 x 34.3 cm)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky III*, 2025
(detail)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XXXVIII*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 13 x 9 inches (33 x 22.9 cm)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XXXI*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 8 1/4 x 13 1/2 inches (21 x 34.3 cm)





Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XXXV*, 2025
pigment and plaster on cement board | 9 1/2 x 12 inches (24.1 x 30.5 cm)



Matthew Brandt | *January Sky XXXV*, 2025
(detail)