

SIKKEMA JENKINS&CO.

ERIN SHIRREFF

April 13 – May 19, 2018

Opening Reception: Friday, April 13, 6-8 PM

Sikkema Jenkins & Co. is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by Erin Shirreff, the artist's second solo show with the gallery, on view from April 13 through May 19, 2018.

Erin Shirreff's diverse body of work, which includes photography, video, and sculpture, is united by her interest in the ways we experience three-dimensional forms in an age in which our perception is almost invariably mediated by still and moving images. Her work explores the gap between objects and their representations, and the materials (and materiality) of image-making.

A new video, *Son* (2018), presented as a large-scale projection in the main gallery, interweaves appropriated and handmade still images into a long-duration animation. Rooted in the artist's experience of the solar eclipse that was visible in the United States in the late summer of 2017, the video centers on a large, dark, circular form that slowly takes shape and shifts identity, changing scale as it locates itself within a cosmic plane or the interior of the artist's studio. An earlier iteration of *Son* was presented as part of Shirreff's solo exhibition in Italy earlier this year, at the Palazzo De' Toschi in Bologna, curated by Simone Menegoi.

For a new series of wall-based works, enlarged scans of halftone book reproductions are printed onto sheets of aluminum that are then cut into shapes – arcs, sticks, curves – and layered in informal compositions within deep-set frames. The works are amalgams of analog and digital materials and processes, and incorporate backdrops of solid colors sourced from the process of making four-color scans of black and white images. These new works relate to Shirreff's earlier series of Drop sculptures that translate hand-cut scraps of paper into large sheets of raw steel, and to her photographic series Relief—they continue Shirreff's exploration of scale, material translations, and possible relationships between picture and form.

The passage of time and the effects of natural and artificial light are ideas and motifs that recur in Shirreff's work, and are forces intrinsic to the process of making cyanotype photographs, a practice that the artist continues to explore. The exhibition includes three new large-scale cyanotype photographs that are assembled through collage. Shirreff exposes, cuts and layers her elements, creating compositions that appear radically flat and painterly but include slight evidence of the studio process, the layers of fabric giving texture to the photographic plane.

A series of monochrome sculptures on pedestals throughout the gallery resemble castoff paper scraps rendered solid and propped upright on edge – positive casts of negative space. Pulled from one-off molds, the objects bear in-process markings on their edges and planes and suggest hand-cut forms in their missing centers. Intimately scaled cyanotypes exposed directly on pages torn from books feature makeshift vistas for a collection of figurative sculptures from the 20th century. Echoing scale shifts seen elsewhere in the exhibition, these portraits continue the artist's longstanding interest in the life of objects through pictures.

Erin Shirreff was born in British Columbia, Canada, and now lives and works in New York. Recent solo exhibitions include *Concrete Buildings*, Fonderie Darling, Montréal as part of the Momenta Biennale de l'image (2017); *Halves and Wholes* at Kunsthalle Basel (2016); and a survey exhibition of photographs, sculpture, and video co-curated by the ICA Boston and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery (2015-16). Recent group shows include *Gray Matters*, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus (2017); *Slow Objects*, The Common Guild, Glasgow (2017); *Photography Today: Distant Realities*, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich (2016); *L'image volée*, Fondazione Prada, Milan (2016); and *Photo-Poetics: An Anthology*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2015). Her work is in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Centre Pompidou, LACMA, The Museum of Modern Art, Art Gallery of Ontario, and Yale University Art Gallery, among others.

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UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS:

SHEILA HICKS MAY 24 – JULY 6

UPCOMING ART FAIRS:

FRIEZE NEW YORK MAY 3 – 6
ART BASEL JUNE 14 - 17