

YOSSI MILO GALLERY



For Immediate Release

Matthew Brandt *River and Sky*

November 3, 2016 – January 21, 2017

Artist's Reception: Thursday, November 3, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Yossi Milo Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Matthew Brandt, on view from November 3, 2016, through January 21, 2017, with a reception for the artist on Thursday, November 3 from 6:00 – 8:00pm. The artist's third exhibition at the gallery, *River and Sky*, will feature new large-scale light boxes and a suite of gelatin silver prints taken in Flint, Michigan, paired with recent works from his *Night Skies* series made with cocaine and black velvet.

In two new bodies of work *Stepping Stone Falls* and *Bridges over Flint*, Brandt pivots away from the natural world of bees, trees, lakes and reservoirs that comprised both the materials and subjects of his previous series, towards the built environments of Flint, Michigan. Having visited and worked in Flint shortly after its water crisis was uncovered, the artist was struck by the contrast of the solid, Brutalist architecture of Flint's dam at Stepping Stone Falls, a manufactured waterfall, with the natural flow of the river running through it. After photographing the Falls, Brandt color-separated the large-scale photographs onto three individual Duraclear sheets and placed them in a pump system with the collected Flint River water continuously flowing over each, wearing away the images and creating fluid patterns of erosion. After several weeks, the artist reassembled the cyan, magenta and yellow layers in an LED light box typically used for retail display signage or commercial advertisements. Each is a depiction of the original scene of moving water, partially created by moving water, continuing the artist's interest in fusing a photograph's subject with its medium.

River and Sky will also include *Bridges over Flint*, a collection of 24 gelatin silver prints depicting the city's multiple bridges by which the Flint River is traversed and bypassed. The 8" x 10" photographs are developed with the water drawn through household taps in Flint, along with lead and other contaminants that pervade the city's water supply. The unknown and varied effects of these impurities on the prints mirror the uncertainty the water represents to the residents.

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Depending on the length of submersion and ingredients such as Vitamin C, bleach or red wine added by Brandt to the water, the prints are graded in tone and installed in order from light to dark.

In contrast to the specific location of Flint, Michigan, the exhibition broadens in scope to the dimensions of the universe. In the series *Night Skies*, the artist compresses the expanses of cosmic space into the sphere of human activity by recreating photographs of distant galaxies with the unconventional materials of cocaine on black photographer's velvet. Addressing the far-reaching history of astronomic illustration, and suggestive of the perceptual distortions necessary to comprehend the vastness of the universe, *Night Skies* presents a material exploration of the boundaries between what is observed and what is imagined. Each circular piece is named for the astronomical body depicted according to its number in the New General Catalogue of Nebulae and Clusters of Stars (NGC), an attempt begun in the 19th-century to organize infinity and understand the unknown.

Work by Matthew Brandt is in the permanent collections of Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; 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; and the Columbus Museum of Art, among others. Matthew Brandt was one of seven artists featured in the 2015 exhibition at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, *Light, Paper, Process: Reinventing Photography*. A solo exhibition of his work, *Sticky/Dusty/Wet*, was presented by the Columbus Museum of Art and traveled to the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art in 2014. Brandt's first monograph, *Lakes and Reservoirs*, co-published by Damiani and Yossi Milo Gallery, was released in Fall 2014. Brandt was born in California in 1982, received his BFA from The Cooper Union in New York and his MFA from UCLA. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

For more information, please contact Alissa Schoenfeld at 212.414.0370 or alissa@yossimilo.com, or visit the gallery's website at www.yossimilo.com

***Matthew Brandt "Night Sky" Disclaimer:** *These artworks contain trace amounts of cocaine incorporated into the materials used and thus rendered unusable in any other context. The inclusion of the cocaine is strictly for conceptual artistic purposes and is not intended in theory or practice to be considered by the viewer or purchaser in any other way. The Artist would deem the removal of any materials from any of these pieces an unauthorized alteration or destruction of the work in violation of the Artist's copyrights including, but not limited, to the Visual Artists Rights Act.*