

MATTEAWAN GALLERY

Meredith Heuer

Colorfields

February 10 - March 4, 2018

Opening reception Saturday, February 10, 6-9 pm

Matteawan Gallery is pleased to present Meredith Heuer: Colorfields, an exhibition of color photographs and watercolors. This is Heuer's first exhibition at the gallery. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, February 10 and the show runs through March 4.

Meredith Heuer's photographs and watercolors explore abstract expressions of emotion through color. The subjects of her photographs are blocks of gelatin made at home and photographed freestanding, like sculptures, against a white background. The resulting images resemble minimal abstract paintings. Their quiet beauty hides the fact that Heuer only has seconds to capture the image before the slippery gelatin moves or disintegrates. The photographs are powerfully beautiful and luminous despite their humble beginnings. Heuer is perhaps better known for her portraits and representational photographs, yet color is very important to her and she tends to categorize her work by color rather than subject. In her search for a more pure way to represent color she started experimenting with adding food coloring and pigments to clear gelatin and photographing the results. The painter Mark Rothko is an important influence. Rothko said, "I'm not an abstractionist. I'm not interested in the relationship of color or form or anything else. I'm interested only in expressing basic human emotions: tragedy, ecstasy, doom, and so on." Heuer relates very much to this statement, and feels that the gelatin images are a vehicle for expressing her inner feelings and eliciting an emotional response from the viewer.

Also included in the show are watercolor paintings that continue Heuer's exploration of color, form, and emotion. The gelatin works possess a painterly quality, and so in recent years Heuer discovered that she could use watercolor to explore ideas for future photographs. However, the watercolors have taken on a life of their own. They explore the same themes of transparency, shape, and visceral response to color, yet without the precarious nature of gelatin. There is a lot more freedom of composition with watercolor, and Heuer enjoys the lightness and flexibility of this other medium. The two bodies of work relate to and complement each other, but they are created in very different ways.

Meredith Heuer has travelled the globe shooting assignments for publications such as *Fortune*, *Gourmet*, *Travel & Leisure*, *The New York Times*, and *Time Magazine*. She has photographed five books: *Haven* and *At Home in the Hudson Valley* by Allison Serrell (Chronicle Books), *How to Sharpen Pencils* by David Rees (Melville House), *Side by Side* by Tsia Carson (Roost Books), and, most recently, *Six Basic Cooking Techniques* by Jennifer Clair (HCNY Press). Heuer has exhibited her work in the Hudson Valley as well as nationally, including a solo exhibition at Fovea Gallery in Beacon, NY. She received an Individual Artist Grant for her Beacon Portrait Project from the Dutchess County Arts Council in 2012. She was born and raised in Detroit, MI and currently lives in Beacon, NY.

For additional information please contact Karlyn Benson at info@matteawan.com.

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