

Photography — April 17 - 25, 2020

The influence of photography on today's artists, as medium and as material, is unmistakable. An image making process that began as hazy, ethereal impressions has ricocheted from documentary truism to today's cinematic and hyper-stylized facade. With such ubiquitous access and over-saturation, a photograph that now gives us pause, an image that truly strikes us, has become utterly rare. To do so, a powerful photograph must transcend style or fact. It must possess an awareness of its limitations, and a humility in its existence as a print. A photograph today must capture not only light, but an essence; to reveal while embracing all that exists beyond the pictorial frame.

By addressing the materiality of a photograph, artists such as Lisa Oppenheim and Sarah Sze bring unique perspectives on the life cycle of an image or its physical print and its place in the visual ecosystem. Other artists such as Uta Barth, whose primary medium is photography, use it as a way of mapping the non-visible. Still, while the documentary function of photography is not lost in the practices of Mark Dion, its application plays a role in grander schemes of storytelling and education. This week, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery presents a selection of artworks utilizing photography to expand the boundaries of what images can be.