

Photographic Pictures, curated by Anne Collier

June 30 – August 26, 2022

Opening Reception: June 30 from 6 – 9pm

Julie Becker, Anne Collier, Moyra Davey, Lloyd Foster, Luigi Ghirri, Joseph Grigely, Hervé Guibert, Leslie Hewitt, Jochen Lempert, Zoe Leonard, Judy Linn, Marlo Pascual, Jack Pierson, Sabine Reitmaier, Melanie Schiff, Jiro Takamatsu, Lew Thomas, and Wolfgang Tillmans

Anton Kern Gallery is pleased to present *Photographic Pictures*, an exhibition curated by the artist Anne Collier.

Photographic Pictures takes Jiro Takamatsu's 1972/73 series *Photograph of Photograph* as its departure point. The exhibition's title is taken from the lyrics to Depeche Mode's 1981 song *Photographic*: "I take pictures / Photographic pictures."

For *Photograph of Photograph* Takamatsu commissioned a professional photographer to make photographs of some fifty snapshots taken from Takamatsu's family albums. The resulting uncanny images are literally "photographs of photographs." Despite the project's conceptual origins, *Photograph of Photograph* is not, to my mind, a precursor to the

appropriation strategies of the late 1970s and 1980s. Instead Takamatsu's images-within-images are more elusive and less didactic: they operate almost as if still lifes, where a photographic print – and whatever imagery it might contain - is the ostensible subject of the work; staged and documented in an offhand and deadpan manner.

Photographic Pictures is, like Takamatsu's project, ultimately a consideration of photography's ongoing and self-reflexive relationship with itself: as a medium, as a discipline, and as an idea. It is about the act of looking and how we develop relationships with images. The majority of the works in the exhibition subscribe to the notion of "pictures of pictures", "images of images" or "photographs of photographs", in that they document or depict an existing image, whether it be a photographic print, an image observed on a screen, a page of an open book, a newspaper clipping, a magazine cover, or a record sleeve.

Somewhere between Takamatsu's emotional-conceptualism and Depeche Mode's melancholic-pop there is a thread that I hope runs throughout the works in *Photographic Pictures*: a kind of aesthetic tone that is at once emotional, psychological, (auto)biographical, and even sometimes sentimental.

- Anne Collier, June 2022.

Anton Kern Gallery would like to thank all of the participating artists, their galleries, and the lenders for their enthusiasm and support of *Photographic Pictures*.

For additional images and information, please contact: press@antonkerngallery.com.

For Immediate Release



Jiro Takamatsu, *Photograph of Photograph*, 1973
Silver gelatin print
17 7/8 x 22 3/8 inches (45.4 x 56.8 cm)