

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VALERIE SNOBECK**

***LE MONDE, LE CONTINENT, LA FRANCE, ETC..., ETC..., LA RUE DE BIZERTE, MOI***

**28 MARCH – 16 MAY 2014**

**PRIVATE VIEW: THURSDAY, 27 MARCH, 6 - 8PM**

Simon Lee Gallery is proud to present Valerie Snobeck's first UK exhibition, *Le monde, le continent, la France, etc...,etc..., la rue de Bizerte, moi* which opens shortly after her presentation at the Whitney Biennial. The exhibition will include three groups of works: peels taken from the Environmental Protection Agency's 1970s Documerica Project; a group of Depression era glass pitchers fractured by ice expansion and repaired using metal armatures; several imprinted wooden sticks, both vintage and new, which are used for measuring remaining levels of gas and fuel.

Whenever I need to make a decision I take it upon myself to consult the Pacific Ocean satellite. You can't see everything from the view up there, but it also cannot help but reveal some absolute things, some of which are the direction of things, a distance, and a delay.

Expansion, like breathing, allows for what was external to become internal. A movement to an extended or reach beyond capacity. A bruise happens when vessels are damaged and allow blood to seep where before it had been confined, external, but still within. Can we see everything that is inside us?

I am often asked if the peels I make are archival and how do we get these things off the wall? They are removed from a wall through a separation, through another peeling.

I have been searching through this archive for years. Most of the time was spent being afraid to use the images. Not for fear of copyright. The photographers were all paid and released their rights to the images. I was confused about the truth of a photo that was taken to document the current state of the environment. Can the environment be sealed within the confines of a frame? Can the environment that existed before be different than the one existing now? The more I searched the archive the more I was convinced that it was through what was not shown in the images, but what it was next to, what surrounded it, and what is now alongside the images that is the importance. What was there that was not visible? What are the layers in front of these things?

Use Access: Unrestricted.

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These images are held in the US National Archives. They are available online as digital downloads and at 8601 Adelphi Rd, MD, USA. In the archives when you ask for a box for research there is no subtext that goes along with the images. They are archived on slide sheets organized by photographer image next to image without interruption.

- Valerie Snobeck

Valerie Snobeck (b. 1980) lives and works in New York. She has had solo exhibitions at Basel Parcours (2013), Le Consortium, Dijon (2012), and has shown in group exhibitions at Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, NL (2013), and The Sculpture Centre, NY (2011), amongst many others. Snobeck will exhibit at the WallRiss Kunstraum, Fribourg, Switzerland, this year, and is currently showing at the 2014 Whitney Biennial, New York.

For further press information, images and interview requests please contact Julia or Jay at Purple:  
julia@purplepr.com | Jay@purplepr.com | +44 (0) 207 434 7010

12 BERKELEY STREET  
LONDON W1J 8DT  
T +44 (0) 20 7491 0100  
F +44 (0) 20 7491 0200  
INFO@SIMONLEEGALLERY.COM

SIMON LEE GALLERY LTD  
REGISTERED IN ENGLAND 4316341  
GB 788 061 692