

James Welling
Choreograph

May 10 – July 15, 2018

Marta Cervera Gallery is pleased to present *Choreograph* by James Welling, a solo exhibition on view at Calle Valencia 28 in Madrid since May 10 to July 15, 2018. Marta Cervera's upcoming exhibition held a selection of the *Choreograph* series of digital photographs about dance, contemporary architecture and landscapes, creating a theatrical scenario where the spectator of the exhibition is deeply immersed.

In an artist's statement for this *Choreograph* exhibition, Welling notes "My new photographs, titled *Choreograph*, merge dance, architecture and landscape.

I studied modern dance for one very intense year when I was a 20-year old art student in Pittsburgh and in *Choreograph* I am returning to my love of dance. For the series I photographed over 20 dance companies in rehearsal and in dress rehearsal in Los Angeles and New York, including Lucinda Childs Dance Company, Simone Forti and Jeremiah Day, Liz Gehringer, the Martha Graham Dance Company and the Los Angeles Dance Project.

Individual *Choreograph* photographs are made by injecting three black and white photographs into the red, green and blue color channels of a Photoshop file. Further image adjustments are performed using Photoshop adjustment layers.

The sites I chose to merge with the dance imagery include buildings designed by Paul Rudolph and Jean Nouvel, and non-descript buildings such as the New York Historical Society and the San Francisco Art Institute. The landscape imagery ranges from driftwood beach huts in northern California, snow laden trees in New York's Central Park and woods and snow in western Connecticut.

Choreograph is a body of work that looks at how color is created in photographic media and extends the exploration of color and architecture that I began in my *Glass House* photographs from 2006-2010. The artificial hues of *Choreograph* utilize the extremely wide color range available in with an inkjet printer.

In *Choreograph* I want to create works that are both sensual and artificial, somatic and rich in abstract ornamentation."

Galería Marta Cervera

The work of significant modern architects as well as the landscapes represented in *Choreograph*, reveal a long-standing interest of the artist in architecture since earlier works: *Los Angeles Architecture and Portraits*, 1976–1978; *Architectural Photographs/Buildings by H. H. Richardson*, 1988–1994; *Light Sources*, 1977–2005; *Glass House*, 2006–2010; *Maison de Verre*, 2009; and *James Welling: The mind of Fire*, 2012–2014 (presented at MK Gallery, at Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea – CGAC in Santiago de Compostela, and at Contemporary Art Gallery in Vancouver), in which Welling reconnected with his interest in modern dance researching the files in order to began his largest and most ambitious project to date: *Choreograph*.

“Art as landscape is often used to initiate discussion of nonobjective art. My work approaches the abstract through its emphasis on chance and repetition. Art as landscape as abstraction serves as an armature for an emotional dimension in the work of art. The evocation of an affective state is implicit in cultural codes which describe nature in terms of the sublime.” (James Welling, October 1983)

James Welling was born in 1951 in Hartford, Connecticut. He studied at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh and received his B.F.A. and M.F.A. from the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, California. In 2014, Welling was a recipient of the Infinity Award given by the International Center of Photography, New York and in 2016 he received the Julius Shulman Institute Excellence in Photography Award from Woodbury University, California. From 1995 to 2016, he was Area Head of Photography at UCLA and since 2012 he has been a Lecturer with the Rank of Professor at Princeton University.

Welling's work has been exhibited widely in the United States and internationally, including solo exhibitions at the Art Institute of Chicago (2014); Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland; University Museum of Contemporary Art, UMASS Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts (both 2013); Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut (both 2012); Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota (2010); Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels; Art Gallery of York University, Toronto (both 2002); Sprengel Museum Hannover (1999); Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; and the Kunstmuseum Luzern, Lucerne, Switzerland (both 1998). In 2000, the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio organized a major survey of his work, which traveled to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and the Baltimore Museum of Art. In 1990, the artist's first museum exhibition was presented by Kunsthalle Bern.

The artist's work is held in major museum collections, including the Reina Sofia Museum of Contemporary Art, Madrid, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography; Vancouver Art Gallery; Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. He lives and works in New York.

C/ Valencia 28
28012 Madrid
tel. +34913105036
info@galeriamartacervera.com
www.galeriamartacervera.com