

# GAGOSIAN

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## SALLY MANN

### A Selection

November 15–December 15, 2018  
456 North Camden Drive, Beverly Hills

Sally Mann, *The Nature of Loneliness*, 2008, gelatin silver print, 15 × 13 1/2 inches (38.1 × 34.3 cm)

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October 31, 2018

*The work of this period includes intimate depictions of my husband and deeply personal explorations of the landscape of the American South, the nature of mortality (and the mortality of nature), and the indelible marks that slavery left on the world surrounding me.*

—Sally Mann

To coincide with Sally Mann's survey exhibition, *A Thousand Crossings*, at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, Gagosian is pleased to present a selection of Mann's photographs.

For more than four decades Mann's haunting photography of the people and landscapes around her has explored memory, desire, death, the bonds of family, and human connections to nature and place. The works on view are drawn from three series: *Deep South* and *Battlefields*, which depict "the

radical light of the American South” with an oblique and lyric universality, and *Proud Flesh*, an intimate portrait of Mann’s husband.

Mann began taking the photographs that would become the *Deep South* series in 1998, when she drove through the Deep South to Louisiana. Working with a large-format camera and the nineteenth-century wet-plate collodion process, Mann constructed a makeshift darkroom in the back of her car, shooting and printing the images as she went. Making negatives this way gives rise to serendipitous and evocative imperfections—streaks, scratches, spots, and pits. The resulting silver gelatin prints, such as *Untitled (Emmett Till River Bank)* (1998), are both completely in and of their environment: eerily quiet roads, ruins, and riverbanks that were the sites of both ordinary life and unspeakable violence.

*Battlefields*, a series Mann began in 2000, shows landscapes haunted with the memory of the Civil War. Sites of long-ago combat from Fredericksburg, Virginia, to Antietam, Maryland—often those on which heavy human losses occurred—are pictured as they exist today: calm, unremarkable, and storied with American history. Mann has asked, “Do these fields, upon which unspeakable carnage occurred, where unknowable numbers of bodies are buried, bear witness in some way?”

Between 2003 and 2009, Mann photographed her husband, Larry, whom she married in 1970. Reminiscent of classical studies of the human form and of early photography, the images of his body in *Proud Flesh* suggest the bond between a husband and wife, but speak as well to human frailty and vulnerability, to the transformative mysteries of aging, the strange lucidity of human flesh, and its transient nature.

*Sally Mann: A Thousand Crossings* was organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, and traveled to the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts. After its presentation at the Getty, the major survey exhibition will travel to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Jeu de Paume, Paris; and High Museum of Art, Atlanta.

**Sally Mann** was born in Lexington, Virginia, in 1951, where she lives and works. One of America’s most renowned photographers, she has received numerous awards, including the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Guggenheim Foundation grants. Her work is held by major institutions internationally. Her many books include *At Twelve* (1988), *Immediate Family* (1992), *Still Time* (1994), *What Remains* (2003), *Deep South* (2005), *Proud Flesh* (2009), *The Flesh and the Spirit* (2010), and *Remembered Light* (2016). In 2001 Mann was named “America’s Best Photographer” by *Time* magazine. A 1994 documentary about her work, *Blood Ties*, was nominated for an Academy Award, and the 2006 feature film about her work, *What Remains*, was nominated for an Emmy Award in 2008. Her bestselling memoir, *Hold Still* (Little, Brown, 2015), received universal critical acclaim, and was named a finalist for the National Book Award. In 2016 *Hold Still* won the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. The major survey exhibition *Sally Mann: A Thousand Crossings* opened in March 2018 at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. This comprehensive exploration of Mann’s relationship with the South will travel internationally.

#SallyMann

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pressla@gagosian.com

+1 310 271 9400