

Marianne Boesky Gallery Now Represents Artist John Houck

Works by the Artist Currently on View at Gallery's Aspen Location, Boesky West

New York—September 22, 2017—Marianne Boesky Gallery is pleased to announce representation of artist John Houck, whose layered and dynamic compositions challenge preconceived notions of photography as a genre of true-to-life representation. Houck joins the gallery following the successful opening of his solo exhibition, *Tenth Mountain*, at Boesky West in Aspen, Colorado this summer. The exhibition marks the first in-depth exploration of the artist's increasing use of painterly gesture in his photographic work, and remains open through October 1, 2017. The gallery will also present a selection of the artist's work at the upcoming edition of Art Basel Miami Beach.

Houck makes his images through a systematic re-photographing that produces a complex set of relationships between figure and ground and defies a clear understanding of the real and created. In this process, the artist takes a set of objects—often with personal meaning—and captures them multiple times. With each iteration, the objects are repositioned atop of their own images. The resultant work is a kind of photograph of itself, seen through a multitude of perspectives. The unfixed nature of Houck's compositions is further complicated by the artist's introduction of painterly mark-making, which he incorporates in both the objects being photographed and the photographs themselves. These actions transform the photograph into a screen through which the composition is gradually developed, examined, and remade.

“John's practice is such a beautiful combination of meticulous technique and creative play. His fluid movement between a variety of approaches and genres pushes the boundaries of understood artistic hierarchies and frameworks, and arouses a sense of boundless possibility. His ongoing innovations and experimentations both captivate and inspire, and I'm delighted to announce that he is joining the gallery,” said Marianne Boesky.

For his current exhibition at Boesky West, the artist delved more deeply into the effects of free-form gesture to his methodical photographing process, opening new opportunities for play within his practice and engaging with a long-held interest in painting. *Tenth Mountain* also provided Houck with a platform to explore his familial connections to Colorado—a subject that has fascinated the artist from childhood. The Tenth Mountain division of the United States Army, of which his grandfather was a part and for which the exhibition is titled, was trained specifically for combat in extreme mountainous and arctic conditions, including specialized training on skis. Many members were trained in the Colorado Rockies and returned to start ski resorts such as Vail. Houck's grandfather's belongings relating to this period of his life became the inspiration for many of the show's featured photographs, and amplified the artist's use of his own experiences within his work.

More About John Houck:

John Houck has shown extensively in the United States and abroad. His first solo museum show, *The Anthologist*, opened at the Dallas Contemporary in Dallas, TX in 2017. Among his other solo exhibitions are *Playing and Reality* at On Stellar Rays in New York, NY (2016), *New Weather* at Johan Berggren Gallery in Malmö, Sweden (2015), and *ij* Max Wigram Gallery in London, UK (2013). Houck has participated in a wide range of group exhibitions, including the Museum of Modern Art's *Ocean of Images: New Photography 2015* in New York and The Jewish Museum's *Repetition and Differences* (2015), also in New York. Other group shows include those at COMA Gallery, Sydney, Australia (2017), the International Center of Photography, New York, NY (2016), and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA (2014). His works are in several prominent museums and private collections, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York and the Los Angeles County

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY

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Museum of Art, Los Angeles. He received his MFA from UCLA, Los Angeles, CA in 2007 and a BA in Architecture from Colorado University, Boulder, CO in 2000. He also completed the Whitney Independent Study (2010) and Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (2008) programs.

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For more information about John Houck, please contact Gallery Director Kelly Woods at kelly@boeskygallery.com or 212.680.9889. For press inquiries, please contact Alina Sumajin, PAVE Communications and Consulting, at alina@paveconsult.com or 646-369-2050.

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