

Leigh Merrill

BIO

Merrill received her BFA from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM and her MFA from Mills College in Oakland, California. Merrill's work has been a part of exhibitions throughout the United States in venues such as the Phoenix Art Museum, the diRosa Art Preserve, The Lawndale Art Center, the Tremaine Gallery, and the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art. Merrill was a part of the 2011 Fotographia Festival Internazionale di Roma at the Galleria Gallerati in Rome, Italy. Merrill's work has been included in online publications such as the Design Observer / Places Journal and BLDGBLOG. Her work is part of the permanent collections of the City of Phoenix, the California Institute of Integral Studies and various private collections.

Leigh Merrill was born in 1978 and grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She currently lives and works in Dallas, Texas where she is Assistant Professor of Art at Texas A&M University – Commerce.

Selected Works

My work explores the landscapes that surround us, spaces that often overflow with contradictory architectural styles and cultures – the voices of different eras – all struggling for visual prominence.

I make thousands of individual photographs, videos and audio recordings while exploring a city or neighborhood - initially as an archivist or historian might. I then digitally assemble and re-assemble these sources to create new photographs and videos of imaginary spaces. Each image is typically made from tens to hundreds of bits and pieces of different photographs and/or videos. Some of the images have some veracity, but more often they suggest a visual hyperbole – an embellished scene circulating around a small detail or object that fascinated me. As one spends time with the images their seamless quality slowly unravels. Within both my videos and photographs I am interested in creating pleasure and curiosity in seeing the familiar become unfamiliar.



Denizens in the Forest
archival pigment print, 23 x 33 inches, 2014



Palm Trees
archival pigment print, 23 x 31 inches, 2014



Light Bulb from Mockingbird Series
Still from HD Video, 45 second looping Video, 2013



Lemmon at Mahanna St from Mockingbird Series
Still from HD Video, 48 second looping Video, 2013



Jean Street from Streets Series
archival pigment print, 22" x 52", 2011



Fulton Street from Streets Series
archival pigment print, 22" x 52", 2011



White Street from Streets Series
archival pigment print, 18" x 40", 2011

One and two person shows

2014 Solo exhibition at Liliana Bloch Gallery, Dallas, TX

2014 Solo exhibition, The Project Space at Brookhaven, Dallas, TX

2014 Trace, three-person exhibition at SCA Contemporary, Albuquerque, NM

2013 Still, solo exhibition at Women and Their Work, Austin, TX

2013 Trace, three-person exhibition at Box 13, Houston, TX

2013 Staged, Two-person Exhibition, G Gallery, Houston, TX, Curated by Diane Barber

2013 Manifest Destiny, Solo Exhibition, The Tremaine Gallery at the Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT

2013 Fictional/Familiar, Two-person Exhibition, Swarm Gallery, Oakland, CA

2013 New Work, Solo Exhibition, Women and Their Work Gallery, Austin, TX

2011 Into the Sunset, Solo Exhibition, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX

2009 Streets, Two-person Exhibition, 1078 Gallery, Chico, CA

2007 Fence, Solo exhibition, Eye Lounge Gallery, Phoenix, AZ

2006 House, Solo exhibition, Eye Lounge Gallery, Phoenix, AZ

2001 Bed, Solo exhibition, John Sommers Gallery, Albuquerque, NM

2000 Rooms, Solo exhibition, ASA Gallery, Albuquerque, NM

Selected group Exhibitions

2014 *Summer School*, Liliana Bloch Gallery, Dallas, TX

2013 *Recollect*, Liliana Bloch Gallery, Dallas, TX

2013 artMRKT San Francisco Art Fair via Swarm Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2013 Trace: Andy Mattern, Leigh Merrill, Pavel Romaniko

2013 Greymatter Gallery, Milwaukee, WI

2013 SCA Contemporary, Albuquerque, NM

2013 Box 13, Houston, TX (upcoming)

2013 Splash #2, Recyclart Art Center, Brussels, Belgium

2012 *Just Not Yet*, Landmark Arts Gallery at Texas Tech University, Curated by Peter Briggs

2012 Fabricated, Tremaine Gallery at the Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT, Curated by Melissa Stafford

2011 *Flickrland: the Motherland of Memories*, part of the Festival Internazionale di Roma at Macro Testaccio, at Galleria Gallerati, Rome, Italy, Curated by Valentina Iserci

2011 *Fresh 2011*, (online participant, short list) Klompching Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, juried by Klompching

2011 Gallery and W.M.Hunt *The Boa Constrictor and the Golden Retriever: Extremes in Tonality*, SoftSpot Online Gallery, curated by Kim Hennessy and Ryan Feeney

2011 *Future Forward*, Silvereye Photo Gallery, Pittsburg, PA, Juried by Darren Ching of Klompching Gallery

2010 New Texas Talent, Craighead Green Gallery, Dallas, TX

2010 *Borders*, Root Division, San Francisco, CA

2010 *Revisiting Beauty*, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Ana, CA, Juried by Peter Frank

2010 Selections, di Rosa Preserve Art Center, Napa, CA

2010 *Time Capsule*, Eye Lounge Gallery, Phoenix, AZ

2010 Texas Oklahoma Art Prize, Wichita Falls Art Museum, Wichita Falls, TX, Juried by Janis Goodman

2010 Texas National, Cole Art Center, Nacogdoches, TX, Juried by Judy Pfaff

2010 *Years of Living Dangerously*, University of Texas Dallas Gallery, Richardson, TX

2009 *Young Americans*, MFA Thesis Exhibition, Mills College Art Museum, Oakland, CA

2009 Annual, CoCA Seattle, Seattle, WA, Juried by Jess Van Nostrand

2009 3rd Coast National, K Space Contemporary, Corpus Christi, TX, Juried by Fairfax Dorn

2009 *Twisted Spurs*, K Space Contemporary, Corpus Christi, TX

2008 *Small Matters of Great Importance*

2008, Edward Hopper House, Nyack, NY

2008 *Bake Sale*, Blankspace Gallery, Oakland, CA

2008 All Media Exhibition, Palos Verdes Art Center, Ranchos Palos Verdes, CA

2007 *Buy It While It's Cheap*, Blankspace Gallery, Oakland, CA

2007 Contemporary Forum, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ

2007 *Carnaval Do Rio* Art Auction, ASU Art Museum, Tempe, AZ

2007 Eye Lounge Annual Member's Show, Eye Lounge Gallery, Phoenix, AZ

2006 *I Knew I Should've Taken That Left Turn at Albuquerque III*, Grand Avenue Studio C, Phoenix, AZ

2006 Juried Show, The Contemporary Artists Center of North Adams, MA, North Adams, MA

2006 *Utopia*, A Shenere Velt Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2006 *Painted Desert*, North Mountain Visitor Center Gallery, Phoenix, AZ

2006 *Place*, Eye Lounge Gallery, Phoenix, AZ

2006 Joyce Elaine Grant Juried Exhibition, Juried by Blake Wilson, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX

2006 Eye Lounge Annual Member's Show, Eye Lounge Gallery, Phoenix, AZ

2005 Artlink 9th Annual Juried Exhibition, Juried by John Spiak, Carolyn Robbins, and Terry Ward, City Hall, Phoenix, AZ

Awards, Grants, Honors

2013 Winner, Second place LACDA International Juried Competition

2013 Short List, Artpace Residency

2011 Short List, Artpace Residency

2011 Short List, The West Prize

2009 Jay DeFeo Award

2008 GROF: Mills graduate research grant

2008 GSIP: Mills graduate student initiative grant

2007 Arizona Commission on the Arts, Quick Turn Around Grant

2006 Phoenix Art Museum Contemporary Forum Artist Grant

2000 Vera Nolan Award

Publications and Press

2013 Photo Series: Streets by Leigh Merrill, Julia Sabot, Dwell.com, May 30, 2013

2013 In the Studio: Ascendant Visualists, Kate Stukenberg and Catherine D. Ansporn, Papercity Magazine, May 1, 2013

2013 Grand illusions: Landscapes drawn from inner spaces, Molly Glentzer, Houston Chronicle, January 27, 2013

2013 Leigh Merrill's vision of Texas at Hotchkiss, Carola Lott, TMI Arts Page, Millbrook Independent, February 21, 2013

2013 A Digital Look at History: or how we got where we are, Leon Graham, The Art Scene, The Millerton News, February 21, 2013

2013 Swarm Gallery's Farewell Exhibition Shows Fresh Perspectives, Alex Bigman, East Bay Express, May 22, 2013

2012 Just Not Yet: Dodging the Vacuum of Meaning, Exhibition Catalog with introduction by curator, Peter Briggs the Helen DeVitt Jones Curator of Art at the Museum of Texas Tech, November 2012

2012 Picturing the West with Leigh Merrill, feature and interview with Greg Jones, In the in-between art blog
2011 Leigh Merrill's Streets, Josh Rothman, Boston Globe: Brainiac

2011 Sutured San Francisco, Geoff Manaugh of BLDGBLOG

2011 Leigh Merrill, Isa Köhler, iGNANT art blog

2011 Leigh Merrill, Aline Smithson, Lenscratch Photography Blog

2011 North Texas Strip, Essay and 15 image slideshow on the Design Observer/Places Journal

2010 Rulers of Engagement, Steve Carter, Modern Luxury Dallas, December 2010

2010 Borders, exhibition catalog with introduction by curator, Lucy Kalyani Lin

2010 Streets: Into the Sunset, Essay and 16 image slideshow on Design Observer/Places Journal

2010 Years of Living Dangerously, exhibition catalog with introduction by Marilyn Waligore

2009 Annual Center for Contemporary Art Seattle, exhibition catalog with introduction by juror Jess Van Nostrand

2009 Young Americans exhibition catalogue with introduction by Terri Cohn and essay by Glen Helfand

2007 Photographs published in Hayden's Ferry, ASU's Art's and Literary Magazine

2006 Photographs published in Phoenix: 21st Century City, Booth-Clibborn Editions

2006 Eye Lounge – a contemporary art space, inaugural member catalog

2000 Room with Swings published in Scribendi: UNM Arts and Literature Magazine, Spring 2000 Edition

Lectures and Discussions

2013 Gallery talk in conjunction with Manifest Destiny exhibition, The Tremaine Gallery, Lakeville, CT

2012 Artist Lecture, Texas A&M-Commerce, Commerce, TX

2011 Gallery talk in conjunction with Into the Sunset exhibition, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX

2009 Gallery talk in conjunction with Streets exhibition, 1078 Gallery, Chico, CA

2008 Artist Talk, Emerging Bay Area Artist Series, Mills College Photography Department

2007 Panelist for the Shemer Art Center, "Artists' Cafe Series: Comments, Critique, Advice", Phoenix, AZ

2001 Gallery talk in conjunction with bed exhibition, John Sommers Gallery, Albuquerque, NM

Collections

City of Phoenix Art & Culture Permanent Collection

California Institute of Integral Studies Permanent Collection

Clarendon Hotel (Phoenix, AZ) Collection

LILIANA BLOCH GALLERY

2919-C COMMERCE ST • DALLAS, TX 75226 • 214.991.5617
lilianablochgallery.com

www.leighmerrill.com
