

MARCH 30 - MAY 4, 2019

## "American Martini" Leigh Merrill

#### L I L I A N A [•] B L O C H G A L L E R Y

#### artist statement

AMERICAN MARTINI

American Martini by Leigh Merrill reveals a world that once verdant now appears in a state of dormancy or suspension. Through subjects including urban landscapes, still lives, and dense fields of foliage, Leigh Merrill echoes contemporary anxiety and desire embedded in objects and places.

Working primarily with photography, Leigh Merrill creates digitally collaged photographic and video works that explore the impact of desire, simulation, and perception on our contemporary landscapes. Familiar elements such as the lawn, manicured and manipulated plants, new buildings that mimic other eras and locations, reveal a culture of perpetual longing. The urban landscape is often a post-modern offering of architecture, simulating or referencing other eras or locations. This simulation reveals the desire for what is being referenced; and the mass of our landscapes - built for the car and continuous growth – embody an aspiration for forward momentum within its very infrastructure. Merrill's photographs and videos seek out this longing and desire while echoing the cultural, historical and perceptual forces that impact our experience of place.

Most of Merrill's digital collages are seamless enough so that on first glance the photographs and videos appear real and slowly through observation reveal their

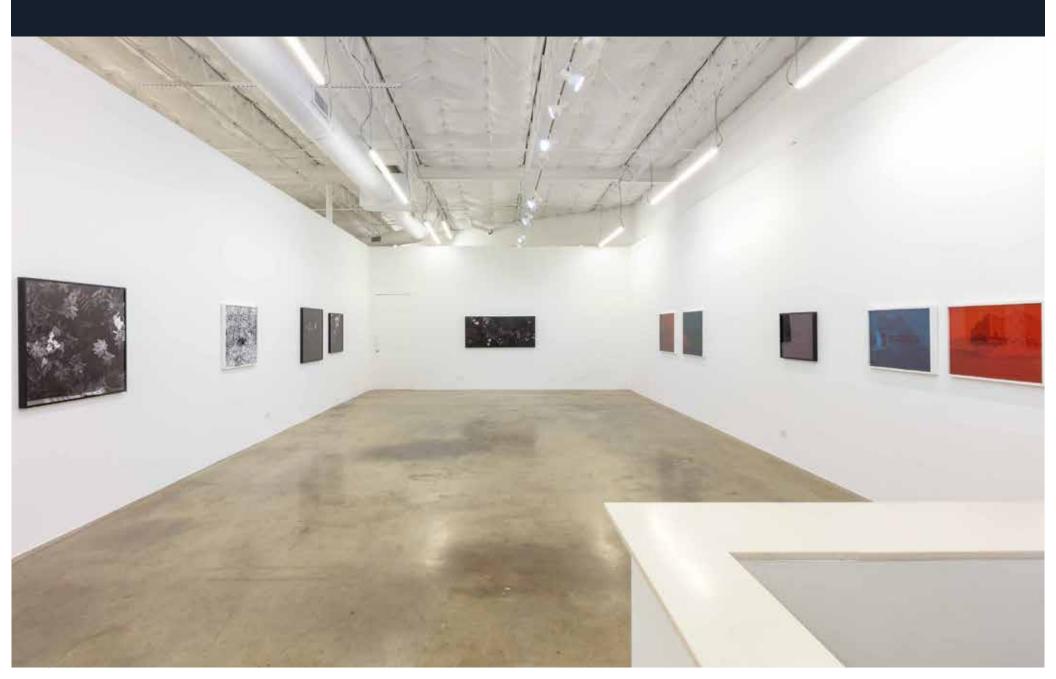


#### artist statement

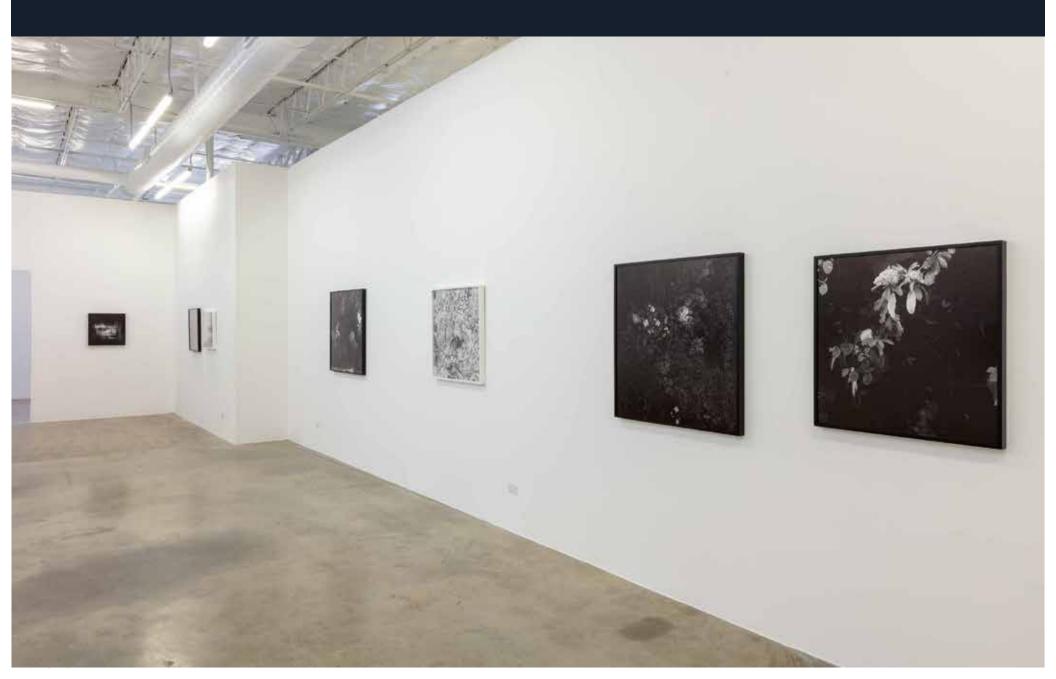
AMERICAN MARTINI

constructed, composited nature. There is a delicate balance for Merrill when creating her work – the images can only be so fake, so real, opening up a space between to consider ideas about beauty or an emotional response of longing, melancholy, humor. Her images are not documents of reality, but they could be thought of as documents of our contemporary, post-truth, post-modern reality.





















"Store Front"

2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 20"W X 20"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



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## "Garden 3, Chair"

2018, PIGMENT PRINT, 25"W X 25"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP





#### "White Martini"

2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 22"W X 20"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



**•** LILIANA BLOCH GALLERY

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## "Garden 4, Wallpaper"

2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 35"W X 35"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



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## "Garden 6, White Flowers"

2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 30"W X 30"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



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## "Garden 2, Las Vegas Greens"

2018, PIGMENT PRINT, 35"W X 36"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



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## "Garden 8, Bloom"

2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 29"W X 30"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



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## "Garden I, Dark Leaves"

2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 69"W X 30"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP







2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 34"W X 30"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



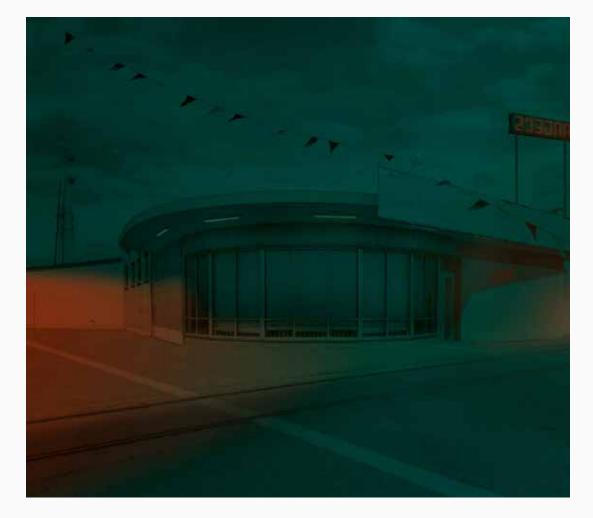
• LILIANA BLOCH GALLERY

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2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 34"W X 30"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



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### "Black Martini"

2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 23"W X 20"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



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### "Blue Martini"

2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 25"W X 20"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



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### "Red Martini"

2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 25"W X 20"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



L I L I A N A [•] B L O C H G A L L E R Y

ADDITIONAL WORKS

# "American Martini" Leigh Merrill





2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 20"W X 20"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



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## "Garden 5, Confetti"

2018, PIGMENT PRINT, 22"W X 22"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



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## "Garden 7, Confetti II"

2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 25"W X 25"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



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## "Garden 9, White Leaves"

2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 20"W X 20"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP





## "Garden 10, Horseradish"

2019, PIGMENT PRINT, 20"W X 20"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



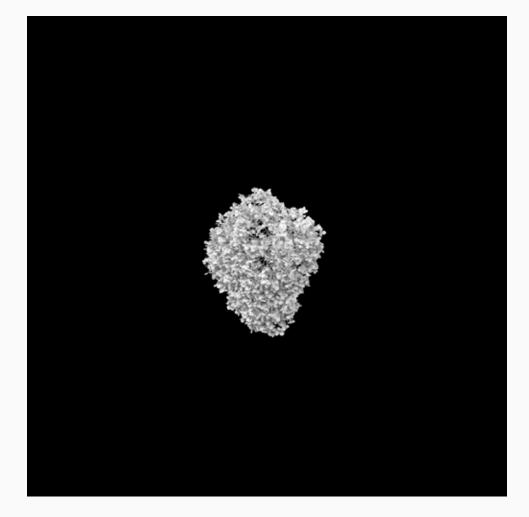
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"Garden II, Organ"

2018, PIGMENT PRINT, 20"W X 20"H, EDITION OF 5 + 1AP



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#### L I L I A N A [•] B L O C H G A L L E R Y



Leigh Merrill was born in 1978 and grew up in Albuquerque, NM. She currently lives and works in Dallas, Texas.

Merrill received her BFA from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM and her MFA from Mills College in Oakland, CA. Merrill's work has been a part of exhibitions at the Fries Museum, the Phoenix Art Museum, the diRosa Art Preserve, The Lawndale Art Center, FotoFest International, and the Museum of Texas Tech University. 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 and print publications such as the Washington Post, the Design Observer/Places Journal, BLDGBLOG blog, and Arts & Culture Texas. Her work is part of the permanent collections of the Museum of Texas Tech University, the University of North Texas Libraries Special Collections, the City of Phoenix, the California Institute of Integral Studies, and various private collections.



LEIGH MERRILL

#### EDUCATION

- 2009 Master of Fine Arts Departmental Honors Mills College Oakland, CA
- 2001 Bachelor of Fine Arts Summa Cum Laude University of New Mexico Albuquerque, NM

#### SEL. SOLO & TWO PERSON SHOWS

- 2018 Collections, Keepsakes, Souvenirs two-person exhibition Galveston Art Center Galveston, TX
- 2017 Leigh Merrill and Adriana Corral two-person exhibition University of Texas Arlington Gallery Arlington, TX

Variations two-person exhibition Greymatter Gallery Milwaukee, WI

#### 2016

Teacup, Still Life, Landscape two-person exhibition Kresge Gallery Lyon College Batesville, AR

This Place solo exhibition Liliana Bloch Gallery Dallas, TX

This Place solo exhibition Flashpoint Gallery

- 2015 Washington, D.C. Cloud Seeding solo exhibition Target Gallery Torpedo Factory Art Center Alexandria, VA
- 2014 Drive Thru solo Exhibition Manifest Gallery FotoFocus Biennial 2014 Cincinnati, OH



LEIGH MERRILL

	Cinder Blocks and Cherry Blossoms solo exhibition Liliana Bloch Gallery Dallas, TX	2011	Into the Sunset solo exhibition Lawndale Art Center Houston, TX
	<i>Leigh Merrill</i> solo exhibition Brookhaven Studio Gallery Dallas, TX	2009	Streets two-person exhibition 1078 Gallery Chico, CA
2013	Still solo exhibition Women and Their Work Gallery Austin, TX	2007	Fence solo exhibition Eye Lounge Gallery Phoenix, AZ
	Manifest Destiny solo exhibition The Tremaine Gallery Hotchkiss School Lakeville, CT	2006	<i>House</i> solo exhibition Eye Lounge Gallery Phoenix, AZ
	Fictional/Familiar two-person exhibition Swarm Gallery Oakland, CA	2001	Bed solo exhibition John Sommers Gallery Albuquerque, NM
		2000	<i>Rooms</i> solo exhibition ASA Gallery Albuquerque, NM



LEIGH MERRILL

#### SEL. GROUP SHOWS

2018 Simulacrum II curated by Wim Melis of Noorderlicht Photography The Fries Museum Leeuwarden, Netherlands

> Step Into This House curated by Deirdre Visser Desai | Matta Gallery CIIS San Francisco, CA

The Range of the US curated by Liliana Bloch UT Southwestern Medical Center Dallas, TX

The Dallas Art Fair Liliana Bloch Gallery Booth D8 Dallas, Texas

2017 Making a Splash curated by Caleb Bell Tyler Museum of Art Tyler, TX In the Mix Barbara Davis Gallery Houston, TX

The Architecture of Limitless Delusion UCD Gallery Dallas, TX

Flower Power Northpark Center Gallery Dallas, TX

Photography in Place Gaddis Geeslin Gallery Sam Houston State University Huntsville, TX

Deception juried by Brian Paul Clamp Filter Space Chicago, TX

2016 All of the Above Barbara Davis Gallery Houston, TX

> Co | Action 500x Gallery Dallas, TX



LEIGH MERRILL

CTRL+P: Leigh Merrill Catherine Edelman Gallery Chicago, IL

Between Earth and Sky: Contemporary Art From the American Southwest curated by Peter Held traveling exhibition: Sichuan University Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications University of Shanghai Science and Technology Xi'an International University Arizona State University Museum Tempe, AZ

You are Here: Texas Photographers Respond to the Texas Landscape curated by Krista Steinke traveling exhibition: Atrium Fine Art Gallery Duchesne Academy Houston, TX Wright Gallery Texas A&M University College Station, TX 2016 SNAP! Live Auction Bram & Bluma Appel Salon Toronto Library Tornoto, Canada

2015 This Side of Paradise Fotofest International and Houston Center for Photography Houston, TX

> The Landmark Exhibition Center for Contemporary Art Santa Fe, NM

Retreat Liliana Bloch Gallery Dallas, TX

And They Papered the Room Liliana Bloch Gallery Dallas, TX

(N)either (N)or The Curatorial Lab University of Wisconsin Madison, WI



LEIGH MERRILL

Observations and Collections Clara Hatton Gallery Colorado State University Fort Collins, CO

Located Place Kresge Gallery Lyon College Batesville, AR

2014 Domestic Partnership Liliana Bloch Gallery Dallas, TX

> SF Camerawork Auction SF Camerawork San Francisco, CA

Ain't Bad at Art Now Morris Museum of Art Augusta, GA

From the Faraway Nearby Tarleton State University Gallery Stephenville, TX

Ulterior Motifs The Louise Hopkins Center for the Arts Lubbock, TX In Addition Two: Embracing Digital Technology The Museum of Texas Tech University Lubbock, TX

Summer School Liliana Bloch Gallery Dallas, TX

The Here There: on the particularity of place Some Sum Studios Winona, MN

Trace: Andy Mattern, Leigh Merrill, Pavel Romaniko SCA Contemporary Albuquerque, NM Greymatter Gallery Milwaukee, WI Box 13 Houston, TX

Aint-Bad Magazine Southeast Arts Presenters Summit Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center Atlanta, Georgia



LEIGH MERRILL

Collector's Choice Sylvia White Gallery Venture, CA

Splash #2 BIP 2014 9th International Biennial of Photography and Visual Arts Liege, Belgium

2013 Recollect Liliana Bloch Gallery Dallas, TX

> LACDA International Juried exhibition juried by Holly Harrison of Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Peter Frank Huffington Post Los Angeles, CA

artMRKT San Francisco Contemporary Art Fair Swarm Gallery San Francisco, CA

Splash #2 Recyclart Art Center Brussels, Belgium

#### 2012

Just Not Yet curated by Peter Briggs, Helen DeVitt, Jones Curator of Art Landmark Arts Gallery Museum of Texas Tech University Texas Tech University Lubbock, TX

Fabricated curated by Melissa Stafford, Curator and owner of Stafford Contemporary Tremaine Gallery Hotchkiss School Lakeville, CT

2011 Flickrland: the Motherland of Memories part of the Festival Internazionale di Roma curated by Valentina Isceri, Artist and Independent Curator at Macro Testaccio Galleria Gallerati Rome, Italy

> Fresh 2011 (online participant) juried by Klompching Gallery and W. M. Hunt, Photography Curator and Collector Klompching Gallery Brooklyn, NY



LEIGH MERRILL

The Boa Constrictor and the Golden Retriever: Extremes in Tonality curated by Kim Hennessy and Ryan Feeney, Co-Curators and Co-Founders of SoftSpot Gallery SoftSpot Online Gallery

Future Forward juried by Darren Ching, Director of Klompching Gallery Silvereye Photo Gallery Pittsburg, PA

2010 New Texas Talent Craighead Green Gallery Dallas, TX

> Borders Root Division San Francisco, CA

Revisiting Beauty juried by Peter Frank, Art Critic Orange County Center for Contemporary Art Santa Ana, CA Selections di Rosa Preserve Art Center Napa, CA

*Time Capsule* Eye Lounge Gallery Phoenix, AZ

Texas Oklahoma Art Prize juried by Janis Goodman, Professor of Fine Art Corcoran College of Art + Design Wichita Falls Art Museum Wichita Falls, TX

Texas National juried by Judy Pfaff, Artist Cole Art Center Nacogdoches, TX

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

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



LEIGH MERRILL

2009 Annual juried by Jess Van Nostrand, Exhibitions Curator at Cornish College of the Arts CoCA Seattle Seattle, WA

3rd Coast National juried by Fairfax Dorn, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Ballroom Marfa K Space Contemporary Corpus Christi, TX

Twisted Spurs K Space Contemporary Corpus Christi, TX

2008 Small Matters of Great Importance 2008 Edward Hopper House Nyack, NY

> Bake Sale Blankspace Gallery Oakland, CA

All Media Exhibition Palos Verdes Art Center Ranchos Palos Verdes, CA 2007 Buy It While It's Cheap Blankspace Gallery Oakland, CA

> Contemporary Forum Phoenix Art Museum Phoenix, AZ

Carnaval Do Rio Art Auction ASU Art Museum Tempe, AZ

Eye Lounge Annual Member's Show 2007 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 North Adams, MA

Utopia A Shenere Velt Gallery Los Angeles, CA



LEIGH MERRILL

Painted Desert North Mountain Visitor Center Gallery Phoenix, AZ

Place Eye Lounge Gallery Phoenix, AZ

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

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

2005 Artlink 9th Annual Juried Exhibition juried by John Spiak, Curator of Art, Arizona State University Art Museum City Hall Phoenix, AZ

> I Knew I Should've Taken That Left Turn at Albuquerque II Grand Avenue Studio C Phoenix, AZ

New Work Art Detour Grand Avenue Studio C Phoenix, AZ

2002 I Knew I Should've Taken That Left Turn at Albuquerque Space 101 Bloomington, IN

#### COLLECTIONS

The Museum of Texas Tech University Lubbock, TX

The University of North Texas Print Study Collection Denton, TX

City of Phoenix Art & Culture Permanent Collection Phoenix, AZ

California Institute of Integral Studies Permanent Collection San Francisco, CA



LEIGH MERRILL

Clarendon Hotel Collection Phoenix, AZ

Various Private Collections

#### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2013 Assistant Professor of Art PRESENT A&M University-Commerce Commerce, TX
- 2012 Interim Photography Faculty A&M University-Commerce Commerce, TX
- 2009 Adjunct Professor of Art University of Texas Dallas Dallas, TX
- 2009 Adjunct Professor of Art University of North Texas Denton, TX
- 2007 Graduate Teaching Assistant 2009 Mills College Oakland, CA

#### LECTURES & PANELS

- 2019 Photography and Reality: Gallery Talk with Leigh Merrill highlighting the Laurie Simmons' exhibition The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth Fort Worth, TX
- 2018 Cinder Blocks & Cherry Blossoms: Photographs about photography, perception, and place University of North Texas Department of Geography and the Environment Fall 2018 seminar series "Crosscurrents"

Gallery Talk in conjunction with Collections, Keepsakes, Souvenirs Galveston Arts Center Galveston, TX

2017 Constructing Place artist lecture Tyler Museum of Art Tyler, TX



LEIGH MERRILL

	Constructing Place artist lecture University of Texas Arlington Arlington, TX
2016	Gallery Talk in conjunction with <i>This Place</i> Liliana Bloch Gallery Dallas, TX
2015	Gallery Talk in conjunction with This Side of Paradise Fotofest International Houston, TX
	Gallery Talk in conjunction with <i>Cloud Seeding</i> exhibition Target Gallery Alexandria, VA
2013	Gallery Talk in conjunction with Still exhibition Women and Their Work Gallery Austin, TX
	Gallery Talk in conjunction with <i>Manifest Destiny</i> exhibition The Tremaine Gallery Lakeville, CT

2012	Artist Lecture Texas A&M University-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
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



LEIGH MERRILL

#### PUBLICATIONS, PRESS, & REVIEW

2018 Theories in Digital Composite Photographs: 12 Artists and Their Work Yihui Huang Routledge Press December 2018

> What is Real in Photography? Fries Museum Zooms in on Illusion of Reality Sake Van Ek Friesch Dagblad September 11, 2018

FotoFest Biennial 2018 Catalog March 2018

Looking Back at the Dallas Art Fair – the First-Timers Tell All: A Record Number of Visitors in Year 10 and More to Come Catherine D. Anspon Papercity Magazine May 7, 2018

2017 Flower Power Embraces Allen Ginsberg's mantra in a compelling exhibit at NorthPark Center Michael Granberry Dallas Morning News May 19, 2017 Photographer Leigh Merrill Wants to Adjust Your Focus Danielle Avram Dallas Morning News February 7, 2017

Spring is in the Air Sarah Hauer Milwaukee Journal Sentinel April 21, 2017

New TMA Exhibition Making A Splash Joe Perry June/July 2017 Issue

Water World: Texas artist dive into summer at TMA's "Making A Splash" Jon Paerry Tyler Morning Telegraph June 4, 2017

Bat City Review Issue 13 University of Texas Austin cover photograph for the anthology



LEIGH MERRILL

Rule Breakers: Leigh Merrill Dennis Nance Curator Galveston Arts Center Don't Take Pictures Blog October 2017

2016 Expanded Drive By: Leigh Merrill at Liliana Bloch Christina Rees Glasstire June 1, 2016

> This Place Danielle Avram Arts and Culture Texas May 31, 2016

Semi-fictional Streetscapes Resemble Stage Sets Mark Jenkins

The Washington Post January 29, 2016

On the Road to Nowhere with Leigh Merrill at Flashpoint Gallery Louis Jacobson Washington City Paper February 1, 2016

#### 2015

This Side of Paradise brings talented Texas photographers to the forefront Elizabeth Rhodes Culturemap Houston November 6, 2015

In the Galleries: Three artists explore 3-D Mark Jenkins The Washington Post August 21, 2015

The Landmark Exhibition exhibition catalog Center for Contemporary Art Santa Fe

Cloud Seeding postcard exhibition catalog Target Gallery Torpedo Factory

Between Earth and Sky: Contemporary Art From the American Southwest exhibition catalog

Dialogist Vol II, Issue III January 2015



LEIGH MERRILL

Aint-Bad Magazine Vol. 3, Issue No.1 From Here On February 2015

2014 Platform Magazine Issue 10: Architecture July 2014

> 5 Art Openings For Your Weekend Peter Simek Front Row D Magazine September 10, 2014

Manifest Gallery's FotoFocus Shows Were Powerful Steven Rosen City Beat November 5, 2014

Art Notes Catherine D. Anspon Papercity Magazine July 2014

#### 2013

Still exhibition catalog November 2013 essay by Charrissa Terranova, Professor of Aesthetic Studies, University of Texas Dallas

Top Five: October 24, 2013 Glasstire October 24, 2013

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

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

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



LEIGH MERRILL

Trace exhibition catalogue afterward by Will Whatley March 20132012Just Not Yet: Dodging the Vacuum of Meaning Exhibition Catalog introduction by curator, Peter Briggs the Helen DeVitt Jones Curator of Art at the Museum of Texas Tech November 2012Grand illusions: Landscapes drawn from inner spaces Molly Glentzer Houston Chronicle January 27, 2013Picturing the West with Leigh Merrill feature and interview with Greg Jones In the in-between art blogLeigh Merrill's vision of Texas at Hotchkiss Carola Lott TMI Arts Page Millbrook Independent February 21, 20132011Leigh Merrill's Streets Josh Rothman Boston Globe: BrainiacA Digital Look at History: or how we got where we are Leon Graham The Millerton News February 21, 2013Leigh Merrill Isa Köhler iGNANT art blogManifest Destiny exhibition catalog February 2013Leigh Merrill Annershy Place			
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LEIGH MERRILL

North Texas Strip essay and 15 image slideshow Design Observer/Places Journal

2010 Rulers of Engagement Steve Carter Modern Luxury Dallas December 2010

> Borders exhibition catalog introduction by curator, Lucy Kalyani Lin

Streets: Into the Sunset essay and 16 image slideshow Design Observer/Places Journal

Years of Living Dangerously exhibition catalog introduction by Marilyn Waligore

2009 2009 Annual Center for Contemporary Art Seattle exhibition catalog introduction by juror Jess Van Nostrand, Exhibitions Curator, Cornish College of the Arts Young Americans exhibition catalog introduction by Terri Cohn, writer and art historian essay by Glen Helfand, critic and curator

- 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

Eye Lounge – a contemporary art space inaugural member catalog

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

#### GRANTS, AWARDS, & HONORS

- 2017 Faculty Development Grant Texas A&M University-Commerce
- 2016 Faculty Development Grant Texas A&M University-Commerce



LEIGH MERRILL

2015	Unfettered Thought Award Texas A&M University-Commerce	2011	Short List Artpace Residency San Antonio, TX
	Faculty Development Grant Texas A&M University-Commerce		selected by Curator Suzanne Cottor, Curator of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation's Abu Dhabi Project
2014	Faculty Development Grant Texas A&M University-Commerce		Short List The West Prize
2013	Faculty Development Grant Texas A&M University-Commerce	2009	Jay DeFeo Award Mills College
	Short List		Oakland, CA
	Artpace Residency	2006	Phoenix Art Museum Contemporary
	San Antonio, TX selected by Curator Mika Yoshitake, Assistant Curator	2000	Forum Artist Grant
	Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden	2000	Vera Nolan Award University of New Mexico
	2nd Place LACDA International		
	Juried exhibition		
	juried by Holly Harrison of Los Angeles		
	County Museum of Art and Peter Frank Huffington Post		
	Los Angeles, CA		

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Liliana Bloch Gallery © 2019 | All Rights Reserved Photography of gallery installation: Kevin Todora at Todora Photography Design: Alexandria Henry



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