



SoCal Represents at Paris Photo L.A. 2014

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And it's a battered old suitcase

Photography is a preferred medium of story-tellers. But given the depth and breadth of what photography can be now, it becomes increasingly impossible to tell the real from the fictional. Some artists posit whether truth in photography is even the point any more. This even as the directive to chronicle the world's diversity of beauties and social injustices is increasingly urgent, as a matter of truth. Some people want to play with the amazing space-age toys; still others resurrect vintage tech or even make their own. The genre has mushroomed into the least monolithic thing possible -- as a genre, it contains multitudes. The 2014 Paris Photo L.A. show, showing from April 25-April 27, reflects this wide-angled variety. The LA-based artists being featured at the fair alone offer a nearly whiplash-inducing array of relationships to technology, history, abstraction, landscape, portraiture, narrative, sculpture, handcraft, digital manipulation, drama, ambiguity, nostalgia, propaganda, memory, seduction, and document. Now multiply that by the hundreds of international artists brought in by their galleries and publishers, and you start to see why you might need more than one day at Paris Photo L.A. Plus walking the outdoor streets of the New York backlot is very convincing -- going up stoops into galleries on brownstone first-floors, having storefronts occupied by bookstores, cafes by cafes, and the intimate hangar-style settings therefore breezy and cool and not at all overwhelming. As an experience, it's compelling. It feels, of all things, natural. The world comes to Paris, then heads for the part of Los Angeles that's specifically built to look like New York City in the movies. And to think, some people are still worried about illusion.

The following are a few Southern California artists who will be on view at Paris Photo:



Christopher Russell, Aperture, Edition 1



Christopher Russell, Aperture, Edition 2

Christopher Russell

Christopher Russell will be releasing two print editions through Aperture at their storefront in the New York Backlot D1. Each image is in an edition of 10, but the scratching and drawing on each single piece is unique. The work is related to the current exhibition at Mark Moore Gallery, which examines among other things the potential beauty and emotional power of imperfection, and "the handmade origins of bookmaking, imitating the illustrative qualities of crafted manuscripts while also recalling the visual language of contemporary materiality, literature, and design."

Source: <http://www.kcet.org/arts/artbound/counties/los-angeles/paris-photo-los-angeles-2014.html>