



PRESS RELEASE

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SIBYLLE PERETTI | THE LAND BEHIND

May 8 – June 13, 2015

Reception for the artist: Thursday, May 7, 6-8pm



VOGELFREI, 2015, 28 x 60 x 1 inches

Heller Gallery is pleased to present *The Land Behind*, a solo exhibition of new work by German artist Sibylle Peretti.

Children and nature, as symbols of innocence and promise, continue to be central themes in Peretti's glass sculptures and multimedia collages, which combine photography & drawing with surface interventions such as engraving, mirroring and glass slumping.

When the English environmentalist Marion Shoard penned the term 'edgelands' she defined it as the interzone between urban and rural space. In this exhibition Peretti explores the concept both as Shoard's view and also as her own idea of *The Land Behind*, a space we create in our own imagination; the closest landscape to us, a refuge and escape where wilderness enshrines, but traces of humans are evident. Shoard points out that these spaces have 'value as an adventure playground for children and imagined landscape for artists, museum of our recent past and a cauldron of our economic present.' Peretti views them as a space of emotions, memory and possible solitude where beauty meets roughness, where childhood happens. 'The land behind invites us to journey into an unknown, undefined place of possibility, mystery and beauty, where we may find answers about our own identity and how we experience ourselves in the world.'

The exhibition includes six new large-scale wall panels the largest of which, *Land Mine*, is a 48-part mural of opaline glass. Together with *Snowchild 3*, a life-size sculpture, which seems to melt slowly to become a part of the landscape, they explore different approaches to *The Land Behind*.

Sibylle Peretti received her MFA in Sculpture and Painting from the Academy of Fine Arts in Cologne and a Master in Glass Making & Design from the State School for Glass in Zwiesel, Germany. Her work has won numerous awards and endorsements, including grants from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and the Joan Mitchell Foundation as well as the 2013 United States Artist Fellowship. Her work is included in the permanent collections of the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY; Carnegie Museum of Art (Pittsburgh, PA), Museum of American Glass (Milleville, NJ), Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (Canada), Museum für Kunsthandwerk (Frankfurt, Germany), Hunter Museum (Chattanooga TN), Speed Museum (Louisville, KY), and 21c Museum (Louisville, KY). Sibylle splits her time between New Orleans, Louisiana and Frauenau, Germany.

An opening reception for the artist will take place at Heller Gallery, on Thursday, May 7, 2015 from 6-8pm.