

SARAH SHEPARD

GALLERY & ART ADVISORY



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Christopher Rodriguez

Afterlife

January 22- March 7, 2020

Sarah Shepard Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of works by Christopher Rodriguez, in collaboration with Sasha Wolf Projects. Featuring images from his series, *Afterlife*, made over the last two years in South America and the United States, the works are filled with a hyper-saturated spectrum of color strategically placed within the composition during the time of exposure. Rodriguez is creatively directing with light and color, offering the viewer an emotional connection that is neither associated with time or place. Within the color fields of photographic imagery is a detail and density that is carefully constructed.

In *Afterlife*, Rodriguez creates scenes in nature inspired by the early 19th century naturalist Alexander Humboldt, known for his work on botanical geography. Rodriguez is piecing together a fictional world of landscape artifacts such as rocks and flora that are rooted in feelings of threatened ecosystems. Humboldt discovered and documented natural phenomena across his travels that resulted in a larger conception of nature as an interconnected ecosystem, and at the time he radically suggested humans could upset the delicate balance of nature. What we are seeing today is a very different world than what Humboldt experienced. This body of work is partly an attempt to re-discover the earth and see it with fresh eyes. Color is a primary formal organizing principle and exaggerating color's representational qualities helps suggest landscapes of the future. Like Humboldt, the artist believes the imagination is a necessary ingredient to fully realize our landscape.

Rodriguez is part of a generation of risk-taking photographic artists who are pushing the boundaries of traditional photography to produce ambitious creative results. His over saturated color skewed photographs evoke an emotional connection with and celebration of our natural environment. The reinterpretation of color landscape photography is filled with an expressionist color palette which delights and awakens. Each image stands boldly on its own.

Christopher Rodriguez, b. 1980, is originally from New Orleans and earned his Bachelor of Architecture from Louisiana State University before going on to receive his MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. His work has been shown at the Newspace Center for Photography, Current Space, and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, among others. His images have also been featured by the Humble Arts Foundation, Wired and the Huffington Post. His first published monograph, *Sublime Cultivation*, is held at the Newspace Center of Photography Library and is also offered at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. He lives in Brooklyn.

For more information contact sarah@sarahshepardgallery.com or 917-375-2720.

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