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CHUNG 24 GALLERY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Certain Slant of Light

October 11th - December 16th, 2023

Opening Reception: October 14th, 2023, 2 - 5 pm

[San Francisco, California, September 27, 2023] – CHUNG 24 GALLERY is pleased to announce the opening of a two-person exhibition “A Certain Slant of Light” featuring work by Adrienne Defendi and Anna Rotty, this show is curated by Arielle Rebek, an artist, educator and curator based in the Bay Area. The exhibition opens on October 11, 2023 and Opening Reception will be on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information read below and visit chung24gallery.com.

With a sensitivity to materials, image permanence, and the behavior of light, each artist explores the possibilities of the photographic object. The exhibition title is based on the poem, “There’s a certain Slant of light” by Emily Dickinson, in which a beam of light transforms the author’s understanding of the world itself. This sentiment is reflected in the work of both Defendi and Rotty, who each possess an acute consideration for light as a material. Light is both an origin and a critical element of the destination for their work.



The artists bring our attention to the surface of the photograph and the dimension and tangibility of the art object. Defendi’s continued study of 35mm slides unfolds in numerous representations of the archive. She transforms the archive’s function from a practical record to an exquisite artifact cast in pewter. Rotty employs non-traditional materials in the creation of her photographic objects, including dry dirt from the Rio Grande, privacy screen, and etched mirror. Each substance invites viewers to move around the piece, consider its physicality, and investigate the conceptual underpinnings of the material choice.

Unlike the fixed perspective of a traditional photograph, the work in this exhibition demonstrates the shifting and malleable potential of the medium. Each artist explores this fluidity through a process of iteration, rephotographing, or layering as a means of further examining the concept of impermanence. Adrienne Defendi deconstructs a single image of a Madrone forest and reforms multiple views that emphasize the pliability of the photograph and the changing landscape. Defendi’s work considers the impermanence of memory, specifically as it relates to place and objects associated with loss. We see

multiple iterations of the slide archive, which is both a memory aid and reflection on photography's past. Anna Rotty rephotographs a printed image that has been manipulated or reintroduced into the landscape. This act of rephotographing creates connection to multiple points in time and environmental change, while drawing our attention to the layered illusion of the photograph. Water, as a resource that is scarce and fleeting yet vital and pleasurable, is the subject of much of Rotty's current study. Her work builds an empathy for this natural resource and reflects the complex relationship with water in her current home of New Mexico.

A Certain Slant of Light is a conversation of light and form, an ode to material exploration, and a poetic musing on transformation.

About Adrienne Defendi:

Adrienne Defendi is an artist whose work explores the cyclical, the ephemeral, and the fragility of life. Creating in a variety of mediums - analog and digital photography, alternative processes, printmaking and pewter - her artistic practice is process-oriented and includes meditative ritual and reiterative exploration. A Cadogan Contemporary Art Award recipient and MFA graduate of San José State University, Adrienne has exhibited her work nationally and internationally, and is currently an artist-in-residence with the City of Palo Alto's Cubberley Artist Studio Program.



Adrienne Defendi

About Anna Rotty:

Anna Rotty lives on Tiwa Pueblo land in Albuquerque where she is an MFA candidate and instructor of photography at the University of New Mexico. Anna investigates water, light and infrastructure, informing her understanding of orientation and place. Her work was recently shortlisted for the Frankenthaler Climate Art Award and she has been published by Southwest Contemporary, Humble Arts Foundation, and Lenscratch, where she earned 3rd place in the Student Portfolio Prize. Anna recently exhibited her first solo show in New Mexico at Strata Gallery Santa Fe and has participated in group exhibitions at Form & Concept, the University of New Mexico Art Museum, San Francisco Camerawork, Incline Gallery, and Book & Job Gallery in San Francisco. Anna is part of Collective Constructs, a collaborative group of artists and art historians responding with public visual scholarship to works from the permanent collection at the UNM Art Museum.



Anna Rotty

About Arielle Rebek:

Arielle Rebek (she/her) is an Oakland-based artist and educator whose work employs photography and installation. Working primarily with analog and camera-less photographic methods, Rebek explores translations of space, markers of time, and the visual language of archives. Arielle exhibited her work at Chung 24 Gallery in 2022 and begins her curatorial endeavors with *A Certain Slant of Light*.



Arielle Rebek

Arielle earned her BA in Studio Art from Carleton College and MFA in Art Studio from the University of California - Davis, where she was awarded the Margrit Mondavi Fellowship and Mary Lou Osborn Award. Rebek has exhibited internationally, notably the Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, the Institute of Contemporary Arts-Singapore, Perlman Teaching Museum, and Minnesota Street Project. She has participated in numerous residencies including LASALLE Topical Lab, Root Division, Google AiR, and the Kala Art Institute. Rebek has been involved with the SF arts non-profit, Root Division, in their education program and fundraising efforts. She is part of an ongoing collaboration with ecologist Marina LaForgia, on projects pertaining to environmental change and California annual plants. Arielle teaches photography at UC Berkeley and California State University Sacramento.

About Chung24 Gallery:

CHUNG 24 GALLERY is a woman-owned art gallery that opened in San Francisco's Noe Valley neighborhood in August 2021, presents exhibitions that inform and inspire while offering art lovers and collectors the opportunity to meet artists from diverse backgrounds and practices. The gallery's program seeks to nurture emerging talent, showcase new works by established artists and investigate photography-based art practices.

A Certain Slant of Light will be on view from October 11 to December 16, 2023 at CHUNG 24 GALLERY located at 4071 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114



Adrienne Defendi
Defendi, Energy & Matter III, 2023



Anna Rotty
To have each other, 2023