



P R E S S R E L E A S E

NICHOLAS NIXON: Self & City

&

**SEVERAL EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD
RECENTLY ACQUIRED PICTURES XXI**

9 July – 15 August 2009

Fraenkel Gallery is pleased to announce **NICHOLAS NIXON: Self & City**, an exhibition of recent large-format self-portraits and cityscapes. Concurrent with the Nixon exhibition will be **Several Exceptionally Good Recently Acquired Pictures XXI**, the gallery's 21st exhibition of recent acquisitions. Both exhibitions will be on view from July 9 to August 15, 2009.

NICHOLAS NIXON: Self & City is comprised of thirty intensely detailed black and white photographs made over the last two years with an 11 x 14 inch view camera. The camera is so large and cumbersome that few artists have been able to master it. Perhaps best known for his yearly portraits of his wife and her three sisters, Nixon in this case has turned the camera on himself, resulting in close-up studies of various body parts: face, hands, neck, and chest. These details are depicted several times larger than they are in actuality, and alternate in the exhibition with the artist's new cityscapes, surveying from above the details of Boston architecture. The building surfaces, window reflections, and shadows, interwoven with details of Nixon's body, result in a meditation on one's own place in the urban thicket.

Several Exceptionally Good Recently Acquired Pictures XXI provides viewers with an opportunity to examine, side by side, an unpredictable and eccentric selection of photographs spanning the medium's history. The exhibition includes anonymous photographs from the 19th and early 20th century, as well as contemporary photographs made by some of the medium's most innovative practitioners.

This year's highlights include new work by Idris Khan, created by photographing and layering Arabic texts of the mystical Sufi poet, Rumi; new color portraits by Katy Grannan, made along Sunset Boulevard in the searing sunlight of Los Angeles; and the British artist Richard Learoyd's large, intense color portrait, "Jasmijn, to the Light," made without a negative, using methods based on the camera obscura. Also included are four 1960's photographs by Ed Ruscha, of rooftops in southern California that mysteriously transcend their banality through Ruscha's observation.

Fraenkel Gallery is located at 49 Geary Street, 4th floor, San Francisco.

Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10:30 am - 5:30 pm, & Saturday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.

For further information and press photographs, please contact Dan Check at 415.981.2661 or dcheck@fraenkelgallery.com.

*Nicholas Nixon, *Self (04)*, *Brookline*, 1984.