

# Fraenkel Gallery

49 GEARY STREET SAN FRANCISCO 94108

## **EARACHE, organized by Jordan Stein**

12 July – 18 August 2018

2. Eugène Atget, the author of this photograph, is not on record saying or writing anything at all about his work. Atget was little known during his lifetime, his vision largely popularized after his death by Berenice Abbott, an artist featured in the next gallery. Tara Jepsen is a writer, skateboarder, comic, and actor. Her novel, “Like a Dog,” was released last year on the Sister Spit imprint of City Lights Publishers. It’s a moving, honest, and deeply imagistic book. I’m lucky to have found it at the right time.

11. We used this miserable Richard Misrach oracle for the Artforum advertisement. She’s the salesperson, the faun’s twin.

12. Photography drew me to art, and William Eggleston drew me to photography. I think this image is perfect, not only because its white fence exists only to be photographed, but also because the blood red frieze recedes into the infinite left, understood by most Western audiences as “the past.”

14. To its side, a photogram of roses by Jay DeFeo, a protean artist whose experiments in photography are still under-known. DeFeo imaged many roses across multiple media in her lifetime.

15–17. The most impactful exhibition I’ve experienced in this gallery was Lee Friedlander’s Apples and Olives, in 2005. Three images from that series are hung shoulder to shoulder, like psychedelic exponents.

20. This William Wegman image was sold many years ago by the gallery to its present owner, who has graciously loaned it back for this show. Trew story.

22–24. The Richard Avedon portrait is flanked by two photographs by North Beach-based artist, poet, and publisher Tisa Walden. Walden was married to the poet Howard Hart for many years, and when he passed, she began wandering the streets of San Francisco looking for him. Initially, she made hundreds of images with an exceedingly low quality digital camera called a Chameleon. A group of these pictures were compiled and published by her friend, photographer John Gossage, in a book called “San Francisco in the 21st Century.” While the artist has since upgraded technology, her practice retains an idiosyncratic and offkilter sense of composition, absolute agility, and astonishing sensitivity. This is the first time her photographs have been printed and presented in non-book form. In the next gallery is a pair of photographs taken out her window (John Ashbery shares the gaze) and a silently sparkling red fire truck.

25. A compelling chapter in the life and career of the great Berenice Abbott is the two years she spent at MIT under contract to the Physical Science Study Committee, tasked with cooking up an authoritative yet accessible high school physics textbook. In addition to creating photographs that memorably document the principles of physical science— mechanics, electromagnetism, and waves—she made and imaged this parabolic mirror.

28. Robert Adams made this uncharacteristic photograph at a war protest in Astoria, Oregon, where he lives.

30. Peter Hujar photographed many animals in his life, and all with a sensitivity that borders on grace.

31. On the far wall, the battlefield at Bull Run by A.J. Russell, a noted chronicler of the American Civil War. It was made in the wake of the first major confrontation of the war in 1861. After an outnumbered Confederate force fought on the defensive for most of the day, the rebels rallied to break the Union flank, sending the Federals into a chaotic retreat towards the capital. The Confederate victory gave the South a surge of confidence and shocked many in the North, who realized the war would not be won as easily as they had hoped. The small river adjacent to the field was called Bull Run. Ironically, given Russell's prodigious documentation of national fracture, his most well known image records the iconic completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory, Utah.

36. This Ralph Eugene Meatyard image is from a series called "Motion-Sound," in which the artist attempted to marry the visual and auditory. It trembles.