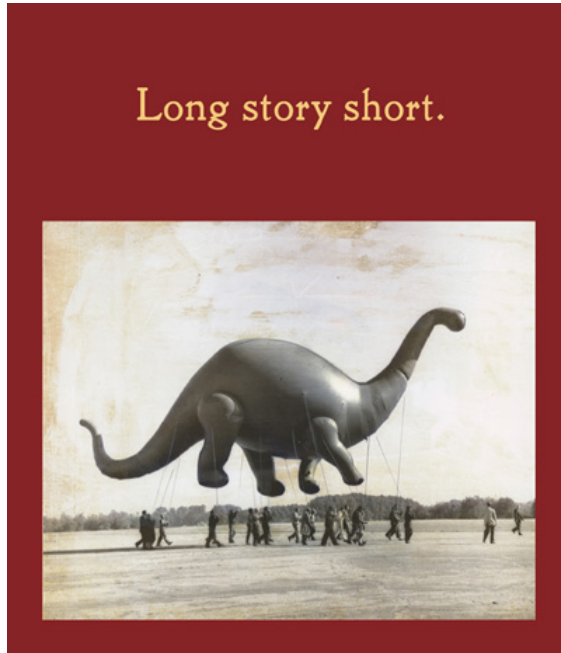


For immediate release



Long Story Short **Fraenkel Gallery / 40 Years**

49 Geary Street, San Francisco
October 24, 2019 - January 18, 2020

Opening reception:
Saturday, October 26, 1-4 pm

Fraenkel Gallery is pleased to announce ***Long Story Short***, an exhibition and book marking the gallery's 40th year. Comprised of sixty photographs spanning almost eighteen decades, *Long Story Short* is both an unconventional slice of photography's rich history and an X-ray of the gallery's idiosyncratic approach to the medium. On view from October 24, 2019 through January 18, 2020, the exhibition examines photography's essential role in the evolution of art over the last 180 years and highlights links between the medium's early pioneers and multi-disciplinary artists of today.

As Jeffrey Fraenkel explains, "*Long Story Short* is essentially a sliver of photography's tasty pie, a tight group of objects that includes works by established masters as well as flea-market finds. Viewers may recognize many of the names, but most of the images will be surprises—and quite a few are anonymous images about which we know almost nothing. Here, in the thick of our digital era, we still believe that the physical presence of artworks can affect a person in the deepest ways. *Long Story Short* aims to convey that visceral sense of experiencing a work of art for the first time, in ways that defy words."

Long Story Short begins with an anonymous daguerreotype, circa 1849, of a young woman holding a daguerreotype in her lap and continues with pivotal photographs by Charles Aubry, Carleton Watkins, Eugene Atget, and E.J. Bellocq. The story develops with photographs by Berenice Abbott, Alfred Stieglitz, Man Ray, and lesser-known 20th-century works by Helen Levitt, Romare Bearden, Diane Arbus, and William Eggleston. The evaporation of walls separating photography and other media is reflected in more recent works by Sophie Calle, Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller, Mel Bochner, Wardell Milan, Elisheva Biernoff, and Liz Deschenes—artists whose work is not strictly, or not at all, photography.

Long Story Short offers a deliberate alternative to the onslaught of disposable imagery now part of everyday experience, and was conceived to reward sustained engagement. Both the exhibition and the book lead the viewer through an abbreviated tour of photography's 180-year evolution. Fraenkel Gallery president Frish Brandt noted, "The range of artists and images provides for a vibrant first-person experience, whether seen in the gallery or in the book."

40th Anniversary Season

Fraenkel Gallery's 2019-2020 season looks at the gallery's history as it reflects the development of photography up to the present day. As the gallery launched in 1979 with Carleton Watkins' *Photographs of the Pacific Coast*, the fall brings an anniversary exhibition of fifteen of Watkins' mammoth-plate landscapes (September 5 - October 19, 2019). These rare works are shown in tandem with *Another West*, an exhibition curated by Richard Misrach that examines how contemporary artists—including Mishka Henner, Nancy Holt, An-My Lê, and others—have approached the western American landscape. *Long Story Short* follows in late October, and the work of Sophie Calle will be on view beginning January 23, 2020, her fourth solo exhibition with the gallery. In Spring 2020, the gallery presents the first U.S. show of new color photographs by Hiroshi Sugimoto, with whom the gallery has worked for nearly four decades.

About Fraenkel Gallery

Since 1979, photography has been Fraenkel Gallery's foundation for exploring art in all media, and exhibitions interweave photo-based work with video, installation, sculpture, drawing, and painting. Over the past 40 years, the gallery has expanded the conversation around photography and contributed to San Francisco's prominence as a key destination for anyone interested in modern and contemporary art.

While photography and its relationship to other media have been the through-line of the gallery's more than 350 exhibitions, it is far from the whole story. Exhibitions such as *Open Secrets* (1997), *Dust Breeding* (1998), *Not Exactly Photographs* (2003), *Nothing & Everything* (2006), and *Edward Hopper & Company* (2009) have incorporated artists as wide-ranging as Louise Bourgeois, John Cage, Vija Celmins, Joseph Cornell, Edgar Degas, Jay DeFeo, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Hannah Höch, Frida Kahlo, and Rachel Whiteread.

Fraenkel Gallery maintains a vigorous publishing program, including Richard Avedon's *Made in France*; *Silent Dialogues: Diane Arbus & Howard Nemerov*, *Peter Hujar: Love & Lust*, and *Lee Friedlander: The Little Screens*. *Long Story Short* will be the gallery's 66th book as well as the 40th anniversary publication.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Sophie Calle

January 23 - March 21, 2020

On view for the first time in the U.S. will be selections from Sophie Calle's series *Parce que (Because)*. In this body of work, texts embroidered on curtains are paired with photos hidden behind them, part of Calle's ongoing exploration of the relationship between narrative, memory and photography.

Fraenkel Gallery

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Hiroshi Sugimoto: Opticks
March - May 2020

Inspired by the work of Sir Isaac Newton, whose 1704 book of the same name describes the refraction of light through prisms, Hiroshi Sugimoto's new series explores the infinite nature of color. The large-scale works, shown in their first U.S. exhibition, present enlargements of Polaroids that record the spectrum of light Sugimoto observed in his studio.

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[IMAGE] Photographer Unknown, *Untitled [Dinosaur Balloon]*, November 25, 1969
Gelatin silver print, 7 x 8-5/8 inches. Courtesy Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco