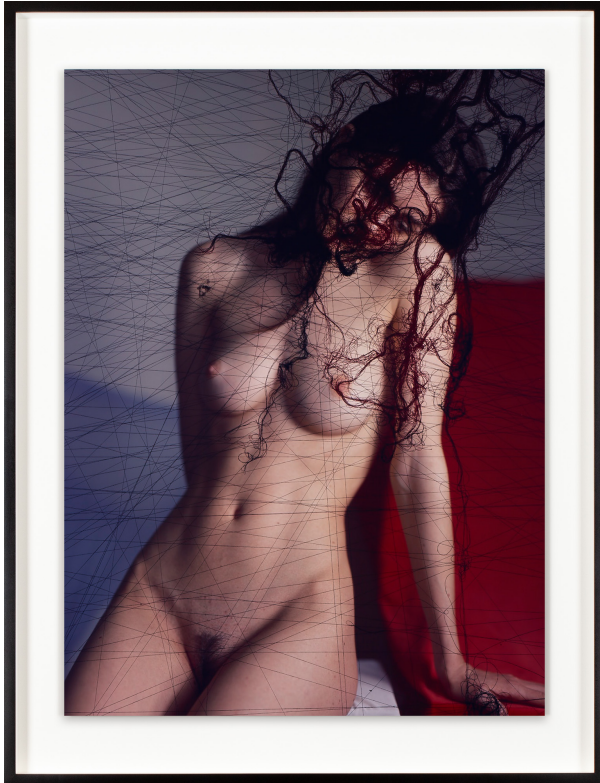


FRÆNKEL

49 GEARY STREET SAN FRANCISCO 94108 415 981 2661

For immediate release:



RICHARD LEAROYD

October 27 – December 23, 2022

Artist's Reception

Saturday, October 29, 12-2pm

Fraenkel Gallery is pleased to present a new exhibition by British artist Richard Learoyd, his fifth with the gallery. Learoyd's recent work deepens his exploration of classical themes, using exacting techniques to create pictorially lush, one-of-a-kind photographs. The exhibition features approximately twenty works—nudes, still lifes, and portraits—made over the last three years using the artist's room-sized camera obscura in London. The gallery will host a public reception with the artist on Saturday, October 29, from 12-2pm.

Learoyd's meticulous process uses cumbersome technology to make rich, grainless images that are painterly in their nuanced attention to pose, detail, tone, and texture. His botanical still lifes depict vibrant and wilting flowers, subjects Learoyd has called transient and fugitive, "alive and dead at the same time." Other still lifes feature taxidermied parrots, elephant bones, candles, and mirrors—objects that suggest questions of illusion and mortality.

Many of the works feature fine lines criss-crossing the image, created with string suspended in front of the lens or pressed flat against the photographic paper inside the camera obscura—or a combination of these techniques. In *Obliteration after Modigliani*, a mass of threads partially obscures the figure, pushing the nude into abstraction and suggesting tangles of neurons or blood vessels. Relatedly, in

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Dahlias, flowers are suspended by a network of fine threads serving as a weightless armature and defining the space around the subject.

Richard Learoyd was recently featured in a survey curated by Sandra S. Phillips, which originated at Fundación MAPFRE in Barcelona and traveled to Fotomuseum den Haag in the Netherlands, and was accompanied by a catalogue. Other exhibition highlights include a solo show at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, which traveled to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri, and *Dark Mirror*, which took place at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Learoyd's photographs are in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Tate, London; Victoria & Albert Museum, London; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; and Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, among others. A monograph, *Day for Night*, was published by Aperture in 2015.

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Image: Richard Learoyd, *Obliteration after Modigliani*, 2022
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