

SANAZ MAZINANI

Light Times

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 12, 2-5pm

Guided Tour of the Exhibition with Sanaz Mazinani: Saturday, January 12, 3pm

Record Launch and Closing Reception: Saturday, February 23, 2-5pm

Exhibition Dates: January 12 – February 23, 2019

Stephen Bulger Gallery is pleased to present “Light Times”, our third solo exhibition of work by Sanaz Mazinani.

“Light Times” explores a technical history of photography in an effort to analyze visual language, perception, and the contemporary consumption of images. The studies depart from a set of unique light exposures on photosensitive paper which become the material subjects of each investigation. Throughout the exhibition, the camera-less photographs reappear across different media - unmade, reconstituted and recontextualized as sculpture, scent, sound, or technical print. These physical iterations come together to construct a consideration of the discipline's material capacity to register and document while drawing attention to new realities that form when the recorded information is aestheticized.

Mazinani’s source material is intentionally pre-image, inviting the viewer to focus on the photographic information in the form of simple abstractions made by the artist in the darkroom with light and photographic paper. Her manipulations, and those made in collaboration with technical experts, mimic the strategies of contemporary media circulation: redaction, decontextualization, and repetition - processes with roots in photography. The works are process driven and utilize a range of methodologies and photographic tools from early photographic history to today. Further investigations offer poetic reflections on loss, time, event, and memory, core to the conceptual dimensions of photography.

“Light Times” looks at the transformation of the three dimensional into the photographic plane, while emphasizing visual shifts that occur when information is translated through the use of different media. The studies assemble a map of photographic language by framing representations of the physical world, registering a singular perspective, and recording the ephemeral. Through these processes a relationship to reality is created and constructed by the photographer.

Sanaz Mazinani collaborated with Mani Mazinani on *Shift*, a sound composition that will play from a vinyl record on a turntable in the gallery forming the sound component for this exhibition, the *Shift* LP will be released on Aerophone Recordings in late February. This sound piece addresses the shifts that take place in sight, memory and perception over time and space. Mazinani also worked with perfumer Ayala Moriel to create *ILLUME*, a unique environmental fragrance. *ILLUME* is a poetic response to the experience of the photographic moment and the function of time’s erasure of that original experience. Furthermore, the artist would like to acknowledge the work and creative labour of the other technicians and artists who used their craft to make a selection of the other pieces in this exhibition, namely Mary Hogan, Mike Robinson, Bob Carnie, Naomi Dodds, Taimaz Moslemian, Horst Herget, and Jacob Horwood.

An artist and educator, Sanaz Mazinani is based between San Francisco and Toronto. Her work explores how repetition and pattern make information legible, transform seeing into knowing, with the possibility of altering people's worldview. Working across the disciplines of photography, social sculpture, and large-scale multimedia installations, Mazinani creates informational objects that invite a rethinking of how we see, suspending the viewer between observation and knowledge. Informed by the visual rhetoric and confounding presence of contemporary media circulation, her multidisciplinary practice aims to politicize the proliferation and distribution of images and introduce critical reflection. Mazinani's works study forms of state control and consider how re-visualizing embedded power structures might interrupt them. In aestheticizing informational systems, the artist attempts to contribute to a larger understanding of how conflicting realities are constructed and imagine the communicative possibilities of visual language.

Mazinani holds an undergraduate degree from Ontario College of Art & Design and a master's degree in fine arts from Stanford University. Her work has appeared in solo exhibitions at institutions including the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco and the West Vancouver Museum. She has participated in worldwide exhibitions in institutions such as the Art Museum at the University of Toronto; the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge; the di Rosa Museum, Napa, California; the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt; and the Museum Bärengasse, Zürich. Mazinani's artwork has been written about in *Artforum*, *Artnet News*, *Border Crossings*, *Canadian Art*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Washington Post*, among others. Her work was recently featured in *Universe: Exploring the Astronomical World* published by Phaidon. She was recently awarded the Zellerbach Family Foundation Grant and National Endowment for the Arts grant programs, and her work is held in public collections including the Canada Council Art Bank, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the San Francisco International Airport. She currently teaches in the photography department at the San Francisco Art Institute.