

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Vanessa Marsh

The Space Between

August 4 – August 27, 2011

The Space Between, an exhibition of photographs from Vanessa Marsh's *Always Close But Never Touching* series, addresses the relationships between phenomena such as experience and memory, reality and imagination, and past and present. For Marsh, the act of taking in and processing the world is always colored by the memories activated by a particular experience. Because the past never fails to rise to the surface and, like water, seep into the reality before us, we are forever hampered from grasping our surrounding environment as it exists in its absolute state.

The image of a water logged Washington State landscape merges with that of disaster footage. A moment in an abandoned junkyard merges with a passage from *The Grapes of Wrath*. A landscape of California almond groves merges with that of a neglected park. One memory collides with another and creates new associations and feelings. Through the process of making the photographs I am trying to reconcile my place in both the physical landscape and the landscape of my own identity, exploring the circularity of experience, which is always looping back on itself. How reality is always changing and challenging how we understand our surroundings and ourselves.

– Vanessa Marsh

To create her photographs, Marsh first constructs models that, by subtly referencing the landscape of Northern California and her home state of Washington, feel at once familiar and foreign. She then merges the physical incarnations of these imagined territories with reality by using the actual sky as a backdrop against which to photograph her miniatures. The soft, almost dream-like quality of the final photographs elicits both the veil of nostalgia and the way in which the cognitive processes of perception and recollection can be seen as analogous to the mechanical operations of a focusing camera.

Vanessa Marsh was born in 1978 in Seattle, Washington. She earned her BA from Western Washington University in 2001 followed by her MFA in 2004 from California College of the Arts. Marsh has shown her work widely, including at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art; Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA; Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA. In 2007 she was an artist-in-residence at the MacDowell Colony, the oldest artist's colony in the United States. Most recently, she was awarded a 2011 fellowship through the Kala Art Institute. This will be Marsh's first solo show at the Dolby Chadwick Gallery.

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EDUCATION

- 2004 MFA Fine Arts, California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA
- 2001 BA Fine Arts, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 *Dreams of the Darkest Night*, Richard L. Nelson Gallery, UC Davis, Davis CA
- 2011 *The Space Between*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 *Always Close But Never Touching*, Ampersand International Arts,
San Francisco, CA
- 2005 *Vanessa Marsh*, Lisa Dent Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2004 *Skies Café Royale*, San Francisco, CA.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 *The Art of Photography*, San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA
- 2012 Annual Juried Exhibition, Camera Club of New York, New York, NY
- Kala Fellowship Exhibition, Kala Gallery, Berkeley, CA
- Chain Reaction*, de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA
- Lightscape/Darkscape*, Artworks Downtown, San Rafael, CA
- 2011 Artist Annual, Kala Gallery, Berkeley, CA
- BLACK AND WHITE, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 Night/Light, San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- Space Odyssey, Southern Exposure Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 10th Annual Monster Drawing Rally, Southern Exposure Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- Chimera, curated by Matthew Hughes Boyko, Gensler, San Francisco, CA
- The Art of Play*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 *Next New : Green*, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA
- Headlands Benefit Auction*, Herbst International Exhibition Hall,
San Francisco, CA
- Pop Noir*, Southern Exposure Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- Monster Drawing Rally*, Southern Exposure Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2008 *28th Annual Fall Art Auction*, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art,
San Jose, CA
- Introductions 2008: A Bakers Dozen of Bay Area Emerging Artists*, Gallery
3175, Root Division, San Francisco, CA
- Eighteen Months: Taking the Pulse of Bay Area Photography*, San Francisco
Arts Commission Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- Optic Illusion*, Southern Exposure Gallery, San Francisco, CA

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- Monster Drawing Rally*, Southern Exposure Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2007 *X Marks the Spot* Southern Exposure Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Close Calls Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA
It's a Small World: Scale in Contemporary Photography, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
- 2006 *Emerge* GenArt SF, San Francisco, CA
A Moveable Feast Café Royale, San Francisco, CA
Momentum Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA
- 2005 *Truth and Lies* Mission 17, San Francisco, CA
Mayhem Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA
Circa '75 New Langton Arts, San Francisco, CA
30 Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA
- 2004 *Epic* Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA
Fluid Exchange Berkeley Graduate Gallery, Berkeley, CA
MFA Exhibition California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA
- 2003 *Selections of Arnold Kemp* North/South Galleries, Oakland, CA
The Mixer PlaySpace, California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA
- 2002 *Slingshot* California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA
Pinup Graduate Gallery, California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA
- 2001 *Beyond Borders* Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA
Worlds Within Worlds Omni Gallery, Bellingham, WA

PUBLICATIONS

- 2009 Artist Profile, *Whiskey Tango Font Book*, wtfontbook.blogspot.com
Spraygraphic Interview with Artist Vanessa Marsh, Spraygraphic.com
- 2008 Artist Profile, *MacDowell Colony Winter News Lettes*

AWARDS

- 2011 Kala Art Institute Fellowship, Berkeley, CA
- 2007 MacDowell Colony Fellowship, Peterborough, NH
- 2004 Headlands Center for the Arts MFA Studio Award, Sausalito, CA
- 2004/3 California College of the Arts Graduate Scholarship, San Francisco, CA

COMMISSIONS AND PROJECTS

- 2009 Jeanne Finley and John Muse, model for their joint project at the The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT
- 2008 Conservatory of Flowers Holiday Model Railroad with FigurePlant, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 San Francisco Hearts Foundation, Hearts and Heroes Project, San Francisco, CA
Eric/Kent Wine Cellars 2004 Dry Stack Vineyard Syrah Label, Santa Rosa, CA