

NEWS RELEASE

Exhibition: Barbara Probst
Dates: December 7, 2019 – February 8, 2020
Opening: Saturday, December 7, 4–6pm

Higher Pictures and Janice Guy present *Exposure #1: N.Y.C., 545 8th Avenue, 01.07.00, 10:37 p.m.* (2000) by Barbara Probst.

The gallery is dedicated to one work: the twelve-camera experiment that began Probst's *Exposures* series and spurred a career-long study of photography's relationship to the world, the viewer, and subjectivity. In the twenty years since its making, as Probst has explored genres including portraiture, street photography, fashion, and nudes in her *Exposures*, *Exposure #1* has been a touchstone for her evolving understanding of the medium. It remains a game-changing proposition.

Exposure #1 comprises twelve distinct views of one action: the artist's graceful leap on the rooftop of a high-rise building in midtown Manhattan on January 7, 2000. Here, Probst has carefully positioned twelve analog cameras on the rooftop, opened their lenses, used a strobe light to register the moment of her jump, and closed the lenses again.

Probst titles her work so that it anchors us in the precise location, date, and time of its making. From there, the artist explodes the decisive moment into a kaleidoscope of simultaneous perspectives of the same event. Seemingly contradictory images, taken from varying distances and shifting back and forth between color and black-and-white, destabilize the viewer's belief in the image's objectivity. They suggest that photography's truer nature is subjective, circumstantial, and always in a negotiation with reality as it unfolds.

In Probst's *Exposures*, an instant is opened up; we are given the thrilling and unnerving sense that a moment can hold infinite, unknowable possibilities. The artist has compared this to the sensation of falling, the unmoored feeling you have just before hitting the ground. The camera, we learn, can record a single moment from countless perspectives: photographs, like real-world events, can be viewed from myriad (and even conflicting) vantage points.

Barbara Probst was born in 1964 in Munich, Germany and studied sculpture at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Munich and photography at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. The solo exhibition *Barbara Probst: A Moment in Space* (2019) was recently on view at Le Bal in Paris. Recent group exhibitions include *Ragione e Sentimento* (Sense and Sensibility), Galleria Nazionale, Rome, Italy (2019); *(Control) No Control*, Triennial of Photography, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg; and *Clocks for Seeing: Photography, Time and Motion*, Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada (2018). Probst's work is held in numerous collections, including those of the Centre Pompidou, Paris; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Museum Folkwang, Essen; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Probst lives and works in New York and Munich.

For more information please contact Michael McFadden at 212-249-6100.