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Contact:
press@gallerywendinorris.com

EVA SCHLEGEL *Subverting Solidity*
January 18 – March 18, 2017

Opening Reception: January 18, 2017 6-8PM



Eva Schlegel, *Untitled (225)*, 2015 print on Hahnemuhle Butten, 79 1/2 x 53 3/4 inches (202 x 136.6 cm)

Gallery Wendi Norris is pleased to present *Subverting Solidity*, the gallery's second solo exhibition for Vienna-based artist Eva Schlegel. Schlegel's new large and mid-scaled photographs depict the abstraction of architectural space. Minimal and ethereal, set mostly in tones of white, gray and black, these 15 images float the eye through physical environments in ways impossible in real time and space. By denying the eye the hard line rationality of familiar architecture and the grounding effect of gravity, these photographs free the viewer from a building's intended function, permit the imagination to roam and encourage the mind to reimagine the experience of place.

This new body of work, part of the artist's continuing series of *blurred spaces*, asks the viewer to reconsider the role that architecture plays in society and in one's psyche. An extension of the artist's larger than life *blurred women* series, this body of work forces the viewer to confront architecture as a set of constraints that program human activity. The works reposition hallways, walls, corners, beams, and portals through an abstract lens in order to interrogate how the establishment of architectural space is designed to affect and govern physical actions, and thereby to influence the construction of one's persona. Similar to how *blurred women* asks us to consider the stability and construction of one's identity, *blurred spaces* asks the viewer to think about the effects of subverting the solidity and rationality of architectural space.

Fracturing, faceting, and abstracting architecture recurs as a theme in Schlegel's permanent interventions as well, such as in *No Man's Space*, a monumental series of mirrors on truss structures at the *Voestalpine Open Space* above the OÖ Kulturquartier in Linz, Austria. This architecturally scaled installation enables the viewer to experience a maze of angular fragments of steel, glass, sky and space. In this work, the artist physically manipulates the experience of real space and time, by fracturing and interrupting the viewer's gaze. Due to their angulations, at no time is the viewer able to see their own reflection in the multitude of mirrors, yet through strategic placements, the sky comes to the ground and walls become windows. The function is to establish a system of movement through space that is free from the confines of rationality.

On February 2 from 7-8 pm, inspired by the architectural images and cosmic films of Eva Schlegel, exhibition programming continues with *Unbuilding*; a one hour series of experimental short 16mm films about the abstraction of the built environment. Using depictions of the city as a metaphor for the self and of the community, these works of art take us on a trip around the globe to investigate the complex, multidimensional and often fractured feeling of our urban spaces. Curated in collaboration with local filmmaker Paul Clipson, doors open 6:30pm with the film program beginning at 7:00. Selection highlights include *Lighthouse*, 2015, by Paul Clipson (5:25 minutes), *Visions of a City*, 1978, by Lawrence Jordan (6:16 minutes) and *Shibuya – Tokyo*, 2010, by Tominari Nishikawa (10 minutes).

ABOUT EVA SCHLEGEL

Eva Schlegel's work includes photography, photo-based objects, and experiential and immersive installation works. Using varied media such as photography and video on lead, mirror or glass, her work is often rooted in scientific phenomenon and questions the limits of perception of common viewing habits. Since 1995, Eva Schlegel has completed numerous public art projects in Austria and abroad and is collected by over 40 major institutions including the Albertina Collection, Vienna, Austria, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, Museum of Modern Art, Vienna, Austria, Norton Museum of Art, Miami, FL, Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck, Austria, New York Public Library, New York, NY, TEUTLOFF PHOTO + VIDEO COLLECTION, Bielefeld, Germany

Schlegel's work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions throughout Europe, including the K2 Kunsthalle Semriach, Museum Angewandte Kunst, Artbox MQ Haupthof, and Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna, Austria. Her work has been exhibited in group exhibitions at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, the 15th International Biennale of Architecture, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Paris Photo, Ferdinandeum, the Tiroler State Museum, Museum Liaunig, Museum of Natural History, Vienna, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Museum der Moderne in Salzburg, and the Leopold Museum in Vienna. Transforming office buildings, universities, and public spaces, her numerous public art projects are found in Copenhagen, Vienna, Munich, Mikulov, Festspielhaus St. Pölten, Basel, and London. In 2011, Schlegel was the Commissioner for the Austrian Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale, where she was previously represented as an artist in 1995. Schlegel was born in Tyrol, Austria and lives and works in Vienna.

ABOUT GALLERY WENDI NORRIS

Gallery Wendi Norris presents a contemporary and modern program that showcases artists working over many geographic locations and in a wide array of media. Gallery Wendi Norris is active locally as well as internationally, working with collectors and museums alike in both primary and secondary markets. Founded with an emphasis on scholarship and education, the gallery produces researched exhibition catalogues, sponsors artist talks, hosts visiting academics, and engages in public art projects, among other initiatives. Learn more at gallerywendinorris.com.
