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CHRISTINE ELFMAN *Even Amaranth*
ARTIST'S SECOND SOLO EXHIBITION AT GALLERY WENDI NORRIS
July 14 – September 3, 2016

Exhibition Opening on Thursday, July 14
6-8PM Opening reception
6PM Artist in conversation with acclaimed photographer David Maisel



Torso of Acteon I, 2016, Amaranth on paper, 37 x 29 ½ inches (94 x 74.9 cm), Edition of 3 + 2AP

May 26, 2016 – San Francisco – Gallery Wendi Norris is pleased to announce Christine Elfman's second solo exhibition, *Even Amaranth*. With this new body of work, Elfman continues her exploration of photography's defining features as a medium, both its capacity to capture a subject and its corresponding fugitivity. *Even Amaranth*—titled after the flower called “unfading” by the Greeks and associated with Diana, the goddess of the hunt and fertility—will feature a selection of images that represent this central tension both in theme and substance. Through landscapes, photograms and anthotypes, Elfman reveals the elusive character of the subject in photography and the fleeting, fraught relationship between viewer and the viewed.

In preparation for this exhibition, Elfman grew amaranth from seed in order to make photographs from its juice. She exposed images of marble statues and plaster casts of sculpture, using this liquid as a photographic emulsion. Capable of producing a deep red and tonal variations of orange and brown, the amaranth coating transforms over time. For Elfman, this changes the subject of the image into a meditation on the viewer's desire for it. The theme becomes the challenge of photography itself, which she compares—more generally—with the task of viewership: the more one tries to capture or “hunt” an object, the more it evades our grasp.

Elfman pairs these amaranth on paper images with silver gelatin and pigment prints of landscapes where the trace of human presence is now long absent, as if to suggest a fragmented narrative in which figure is unique from setting. *Hollow Horn* features a hunter's tree stand covered in vines, *Mortar* shows a deserted Indigenous American mortar formed through countless years of grinding stone, while *Ash* and *Eldorado* suggest the scene of a crime. Together, the pictures leave us to

consider photography's registration of the trace as part of a larger, unstable project of memory. This series, at least in the examples tracked by Elfman—from the reproduction of statues to the proliferation of mythology—has a longer history of mediation between ideals of the faithful copy and free transformation.

ABOUT CHRISTINE ELFMAN

San Francisco-based artist Christine Elfman explores the constancy of change through photography and film. From the Philadelphia area, Elfman received a B.F.A. in Painting from Cornell University and an M.F.A. in Photography from California College of the Arts. Her work has been exhibited nationally, including a spring 2016 solo presentation at Sol Mednick Gallery, University of the Arts, Philadelphia.

Elfman has been awarded the San Francisco Artist Award, The San Francisco Foundation Murphy and Cadogan Fellowship, Graduate Merit Scholarship at California College of the Arts, and the Center for Emerging Visual Artists Career Development Fellowship. She was artist in residence at the Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts in Ithaca, New York and received the Faculty Medal of Art from the Cornell Art Department. Her work has been featured in publications, including *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Loupe Journal*, Boston University, *7 x 7 Magazine* and Christopher James' *Book of Alternative Processes*. She teaches photography at San Francisco Art Institute and lives on a boat on the San Francisco Bay.

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. The gallery, located in downtown San Francisco, often shows two exhibitions simultaneously in order to encourage dialogue across practices, often connecting a modern with a contemporary artist. 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 local public art projects, among other initiatives. Learn more at gallerywendinorris.com.