

ROSEGALLERY is pleased to announce *Elger Esser – New Works*. One-of-a-kind photographs from *Nereide* and *Ninfa* will be on view 14 March through 30 May, 2015. A reception for the artist will be held Saturday, 14 March, 2015 from 6-8pm.



Ninfa (Thyia), 2013, Print on Dibond, 72" x 90"

Known for his highly formalized and uniquely rendered landscape photographs, German artist Elger Esser's most recent work draws inspiration from mythology and romantic lore. Like much of the artist's previous work including the acclaimed series *Ansichten* and *Vedutas and Landscapes*, the images from *Ninfa* and *Nereide* radiate with a sense of the sublime in nature. *Ninfa* depicts the lush water landscapes within the romantic Roman garden Giardino di Ninfa, famed since the Renaissance for its extraordinary biodiversity and unique aesthetic appeal.

Amidst the untamed wildlife of these Medieval gardens the artist envisions an allegorical world inhabited by ancient nymphs of Greek and Roman mythology and each work in the series is titled for different mythological features such as rock, water or flower nymphs.

The artist continues his exploration into classic myth in his most recent series, *Nereide*, so named for the daughters of the Greek God Nereus. Nereides, or sea nymphs, are guardians of sailors and fisherman of the Mediterranean who were worshipped at Greek and Roman sea-ports in ancient times. Often represented as maidens frolicking with dolphins and other fantastical sea creatures, Nereides both symbolize and safeguard various facets of the sea: salty brine, currents, waves and rocky shores. Elger Esser's twelve *Nereide* were captured at a single location along the coast of Asnelles in France where waves crashing against a low sea wall expressionistically evoke the force and lively spirit of the ancient sea nymphs.

All of the works of *Ninfa* and *Nereide* are unique photographs printed directly onto aluminum and finished with varnish. The completed works defy classic conventions of photography and echo the 19th century pictorial postcards that have influenced Esser's photographic practice for the past two decades.

ELGER ESSER was born in Stuttgart in 1967 and was raised in Rome. In 1986, he moved to Dusseldorf where he worked as a commercial photographer until 1991. He then attended the esteemed Dusseldorf Kunstakademie, studying with Bernd and Hilla Becher. Since that time he has explored the globe with his large-format cameras, concentrating primarily on European lowlands and producing numerous bodies of work that blur the boundaries between conventional photographic practice and monumental painting. His work has been published in several monographs published by Schirmer/Mosel Verlag including *Vedutas and Landscapes, 2000*; *Elger Esser, Cap d'Antifer-Etretat, 2002*; *Anischten/Views/Vues, 2008*; *Elger Esser, Eigenzeit, 2009*, and *Nocturnes a Giverny, 2010*. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Kunstpreis der Stadt Dusseldorf, Förderkoje Art Cologne, Friebe Gallery, the Deutsches Studienzentrums Venedig, the Rhine Art Prize and recently a commission from the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Institute for Advanced Study, Delmenhorst. Esser's pictures are included in numerous public and private collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Guggenheim Foundation; Kunsthau, Zurich; Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Netherlands; and the Centre Pompidou, Paris.

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