

## ESTHER TEICHMANN ON SLEEPING AND DROWNING

3 May - 22 June, 2019  
Private View Thursday 2 May, 6-8PM

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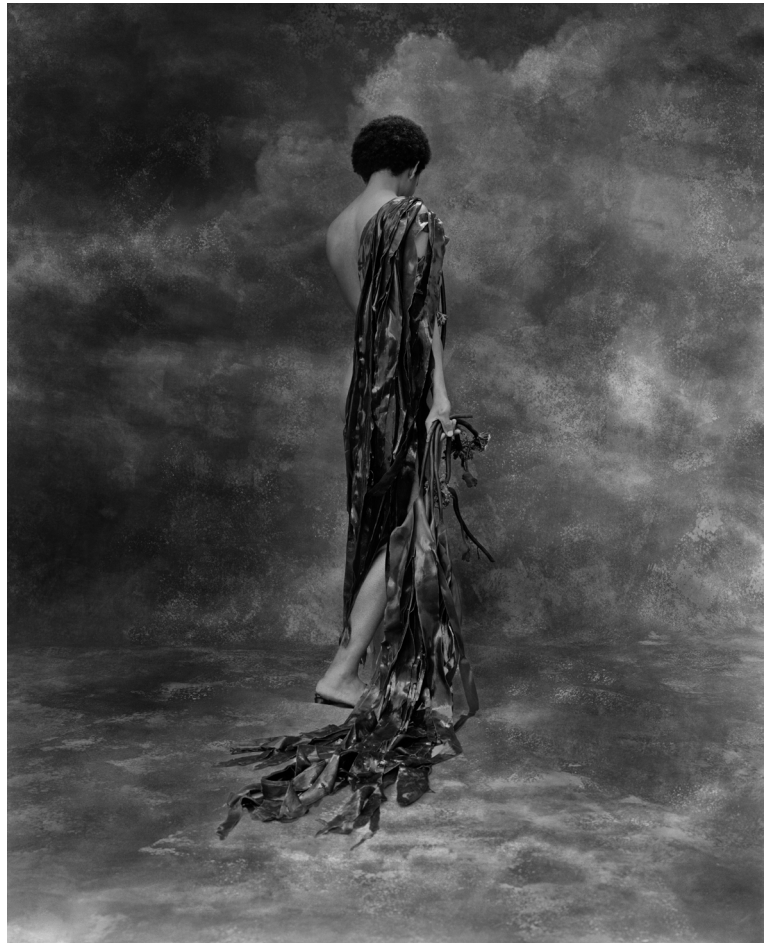
Flowers Gallery is delighted to announce a solo exhibition by London-based artist Esther Teichmann. Working with photography across still and moving image installations, Teichmann looks at the relationships between loss, desire and the imaginary, slipping between autobiography and fiction.

*On Sleeping and Drowning* transforms the gallery space into a layered liquid montage of photographs, painted backdrops, moving image, sound and objects. Cyanotype seaweed creatures are juxtaposed with painted photographic backdrops of caves, a boat with cloud sails, and photographs of women sleeping, dreaming and swimming through otherworldly spaces.

*On Sleeping and Drowning* plunges the audience into an alternate orphic world, moving within womb-like spaces of beds, swamps, caves and grottos, in search of a primordial return. The photographic images slip in and out of darkness, evoking a liquid space of night. Cloaked in dripping inks and bathed in subtle hues, the bodies depicted are sensuous but seemingly beyond reach, entangled with narratives of loss and desire.

Referencing the coral said to be formed by Medusa's blood spilled upon seaweed, Teichmann's work transforms one thing into another, sliding between autobiography, fiction and myth, still and moving image, sculpture and painting. The works form part of an ever-evolving archive, which is expanded and re-configured in various forms.

Storytelling plays a central role in Teichmann's practice, exploring the relationship between image and language. This exhibition is accompanied by a written text, available in the gallery, and a filmic installation, *Fulmine*. Within this installation figures move towards one another with a languid urgency, promising an arrival that is never witnessed. Teichmann filmed canoeist Carlos Tapuy in the Amazon, travelling with him daily on his journeys in silent meditation. In a curtained boat-bed, dancer Sophia Wang moves in an auto-erotic continual motion as though underwater or in a dream. Another image shows a tiny tree standing alone in an overgrown rain forest, swaying to a different beat from the foliage surrounding it. An original string quartet score composed by Deirdre Gribbin accompanies their journey.



Esther Teichmann, from *On Sleeping and Drowning*

For more information and images please contact Hannah Hughes: 0207 920 7777 / hannah@flowersgallery.com





All images: (c) Esther Teichmann, Courtesy of Flowers Gallery

## ABOUT ESTHER TEICHMANN

Esther Teichmann (b.1980, Karlsruhe, Germany) lives and works in London. Recent solo museum shows include *Heavy the Sea*, Transformer Station, Cleveland and *Mondschwimmen*, Reiss-Engelhorn Museum, Mannheim. Collaborations include *Phantasie Fotostudio II* with Monster Chetwynd at John Hansard Gallery, 2019 and the co-curation and editing of the exhibition and book, *Staging Disorder*, 2015, with artist Christopher Stewart that included work by An-My Lê, Sarah Pickering, Richard Mosse and Broomberg & Chanarin. Teichmann received an MA (2005) and PhD (2011) in Fine Art from the Royal College of Art (RCA) and is Head of Programme of Master of Research, and Coordinator for Critical and Historical Studies at the RCA. Esther is currently working on a monograph of visual works and essays, *On Sleeping and Drowning*, forthcoming by Stanley/Barker.

Deirdre Gribbin is a London based Irish composer. Her music has been performed worldwide including The Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York. Her orchestral work *Empire States* was an award winner in the 2003 UNESCO International Rostrum of Composers. Composed for feature films and theatre Gribbin is Senior Fellow in Composition at Trinity College of Music London, Fellow of the Royal Society of Art.h

Exhibition opening hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm.

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