



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARBARA KASTEN

CONSTRUCTS

November 30, 2006 - January 27, 2007

Reception for the Artist: Thursday, November 30, 6-8 p.m.

The Yancey Richardson Gallery is pleased to present *Barbara Kasten: Constructs*, an exhibition of vintage 8 x 10 inch Polaroid photographs. Made between 1981 and 1983, these jewel-like abstractions created in the studio using mirrors, lights and geometric forms were originally exhibited in a one person show at The San Francisco Museum of Modern in 1982, followed by the 1985 New York Graphic Society monograph of the work. This is the first time *Constructs* have been exhibited in New York.

Trained as a painter and sculptor, Kasten was at the leading edge of the early 1980s trend in photography away from documentation toward a studio-fabricated approach. Kasten's interest in the geometric content of the work of Sol LeWitt, Al Held and Dorothea Rockburne and the Bauhaus precepts of staging, color theory, and distortion culminated in the *Constructs* series. Her experiments with "non-objective" photography place her in a continuum between Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and the emerging artist Eileen Quinlan. As Kasten states: "I challenged the integral photographic premise of recording reality. The objects I assembled had no representational meaning. The fabrication I created and the photograph of it became the objective. Photography records real physical objects usually imbued with metaphor or documentation while these works simply present materials in constructions which, through the photographic process, possess the illusions and qualities of space, color and form."

Kasten's *Constructs* series led to the series *Architectural Sites*, large-scale cibachrome photographs in which she treated contemporary building structures as geometric forms, transforming them with lights and colored gels into brilliant abstractions. The High Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles all commissioned Kasten to create these site-specific photographs of their newly realized structures.

Recipient of a Fulbright Hays Fellowship, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and a National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship, Kasten was the first artist to be awarded the position of Distinguished Artist at Columbia College, Chicago. Her work has been exhibited and collected by major museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, NYC, the Art Institute of Chicago, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Tokyo Metro Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the L. A. County Museum of Art among others.

For visuals please contact Tracey Norman, tnorman@yanceyrichardson.com, ph: 646 230 9610