

Jitka Hanzlová
Water That Dreams
 April 13 - May 26, 2023
 Opening Reception: April 13, 6 - 8 PM

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Water That Dreams, an exhibition of photographs by Czech born, German based artist Jitka Hanzlová, will be on view at Yancey Richardson in Chelsea from April 13 to May 26. Selected from Hanzlová's extended project *WATER* 2013-2019, the 46 intimate color photographs will be presented for the first time in the U.S.

Known for her poetic approach to landscape, portraiture and still life, in her series *WATER* 2013 - 2019, Hanzlová has turned her attention towards the essential and the elemental, exploring water in all its different states of being: liquid, gaseous, solid. The exhibition features selections from six chapters of *WATER: Ur, Ice, Clouds, Human Dark, Human Light, and Silent Blue*.

Water That Dreams simultaneously conveys the beauty of the sea, its fragility, its vulnerability, and draws the viewer's attention to the fragility of a complex system often taken for granted. Hanzlová exposes the effects of human intrusion: pieces of trash in the blue of the Indian Ocean; icebergs in the seas of Iceland; a turtle, dead in paradise; a stingray in a cloudy sea. A quiet unease emerges amidst the sumptuous appeal of the natural world.

What is revealed in the images is endangered. Her visual language conveys both an appreciation of nature, and a warning of what is endangered - a world in flux.

"We originate from water; we consist to a large extent of water. Without water any life would be unthinkable. In its liquid state, water is without its own shape and form. In the gaseous and solid state, it creates its own unique shapes and forms. Its paths are its own paths – as if it would know where to go... Since the scientification of the world, the elements have gradually lost their claim to wholeness. Thinking, ethics, industrial needs, all of modern life just seem to function independently of the elements. Water, however, is a universal element.

"Water might be considered Hanzlová's most transgressive work to date, self-referential and personal, where the artist manifests herself as a poetess of images and a marine lover," writes art historian and curator Adam Budak in an essay from Hanzlová's 2020 exhibition at the National Gallery of Prague. *"Each image in Hanzlová's photographic oeuvre witnesses an initiation of sorts; it is a portrait of innocence, a breath of life."*

Born in 1958 in Czechoslovakia, Jitka Hanzlová left her native country in 1982 for Germany where she studied photography at the visual communication department of the University of Essen. In 1993 she was awarded the Dr. Otto-Steinert-Preis by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Photographie, in 1995 she received the DG BANK Frankfurt scholarship, in 2003 the Grand Prix Arles, and in 2007 the Paris Photo Prize for Contemporary Photography. She was twice a nominee for The Citibank Photography Prize in London. Hanzlová has exhibited worldwide with noteworthy solo exhibitions including the National Gallery of Prague, Kunstverein in Frankfurt, Deichtorhallen in Hamburg, Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Museum Folkwang in Essen, Fundación MAPFRE in Madrid, and National Gallery in Edinburgh. She continues to live and work in Essen, Germany.

Founded in 1995, Yancey Richardson represents artists working in photography, film, and lens-based media. The gallery is committed to working with museums, private institutions, leading art collectors, and other galleries to advance the careers of the artists they represent. Their current program includes emerging photographers as well as critically recognized, mid-career artists such as Mitch Epstein, Ori Gersht, Anthony Hernandez, Laura Letinsky, Andrew Moore, Zanele Muholi, Mickalene Thomas and Hellen van Meene. Additionally, the gallery has presented

exhibitions of historically significant figures such as Lewis Baltz, William Eggleston, Ed Ruscha, August Sander, and Larry Sultan.

Gallery artists have been extensively collected and exhibited by museums worldwide including the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Getty Museum, Centre George Pompidou, Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Modern Art, National Gallery of Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Stedelijk Museum, Tate Museum and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Gallery artists have been widely published in artist monographs, prominent art journals, and critical texts and reviews of the gallery's exhibitions have appeared in many publications. Yancey Richardson is a member of the Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) and the Association of International Photography Art Dealers (AIPAD).

Yancey Richardson Gallery is located at 525 West 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011.
Contact the gallery at (646) 230-9610 or info@yanceyrichardson.com.

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Image shown: *Silent Blue #1*, 2018 from the series *WATER*, 2013-2019. Archival pigment print.