

Only photography has been able to divide human life into a series of moments,
each of them has the value of a complete existence.
- Eadweard Muybridge

Emergent Momenta is an examination of time as a malleable fabric that can be stretched and distorted in ways altering fundamental perceptions of the world around us. Through timelapse recordings, found object glass sculptural videos, solar-powered lightboxes, viewer-reactive mixed media, and even large scale flipbooks, the work of Joshua Watts flattens, expands, and contorts our notions of time in unexpected and exciting ways.

“This exhibition represents several threads of my recent bodies of work that have woven together to explore the subjective nature of time and the infinite opportunities it offers. Timelapse videography is the starting point of many works, where a camera records the narrow confines of a scene as it evolves and changes over the course of several days. The revealed emergent behaviors and patterns would never be seen through normal observational methods. I am fascinated by the possibilities contained within each moment and continue to find new ways to share this with my audience. Viewers are encouraged to actively participate in this examination of perception through the varied outcomes included in the exhibition.”

-Joshua Watts, January 2017

AMALGAMS

In this series, time is compressed into a single flat surface that blends multiple moments into a cohesive narrative. Created using thousands of images collected over the course of many days, these works are amalgamations of emergent behaviors revealed by the passage of time. Solar-powered lightboxes are installed specifically for each site and change appearance through cycles of day and night. The camera records every detail within the narrow confines of a scene, documenting an evolution that unfolds over the course of several days. The resulting images are then studied frame by frame to find and develop a cohesive narrative. Spending days recording a specific location and the subsequent examination of the results leads to a fundamental shift in how the space is perceived. These works are an attempt to share this discovery with viewers and provide a new way of perceiving the passage of time.

ENCAPSULATIONS

These video sculptures are intimate reflections of a specific time and space, presented within glass objects from the location represented. The distortive refraction of light through water renders the imagery invisible from the outside, requiring viewers to look directly into the container to reveal the narrative contained within. These interactions are intended as subdued and poetic meditations on the series of events that accumulate to form each day of our lives.

ENGAGERS

These autobiographical works are a series of self-portraits embodying different aspects of the artist's life, using the divers as a representation of himself in each scene. Specific ideas and events are depicted and then transformed as a viewer approaches the lightbox, providing additional context or alternative readings for what is initially shown on the surface. Each

artwork is the beginning of a conversation that requires direct viewer interaction in order to continue. When this conversation is initiated, it allows the discovery of additional ideas as the two-way dialogue between viewer and artwork unfolds.

SEQUENCES

These large-scale flipbooks invite the audience to control the passage of time as each page is turned rapidly to create the appearance of motion. "Imprint" is an autobiographical representation of memory through the lens of interpersonal encounters, collecting portraits taken over the course of many years and merging them with MRI scans of the artist.

"Passing Through" is an exploration of the human figure in motion through two different methods. Lightboxes following the exacting studies of Eadweard Muybridge's examinations of human locomotion, contrast with the more painterly approach of long-exposure night photography.