

499parkavenue

THE LOBBY GALLERY AT 499 PARK AVENUE



Juan Gomez, 080415, 2008, Oil on Linen

Acknowledgements

499 Park Avenue and Hines, through their exhibition program, actively contributes to the cultural community as an expression of ongoing commitment to excellence in the visual arts and architecture.

Contributors

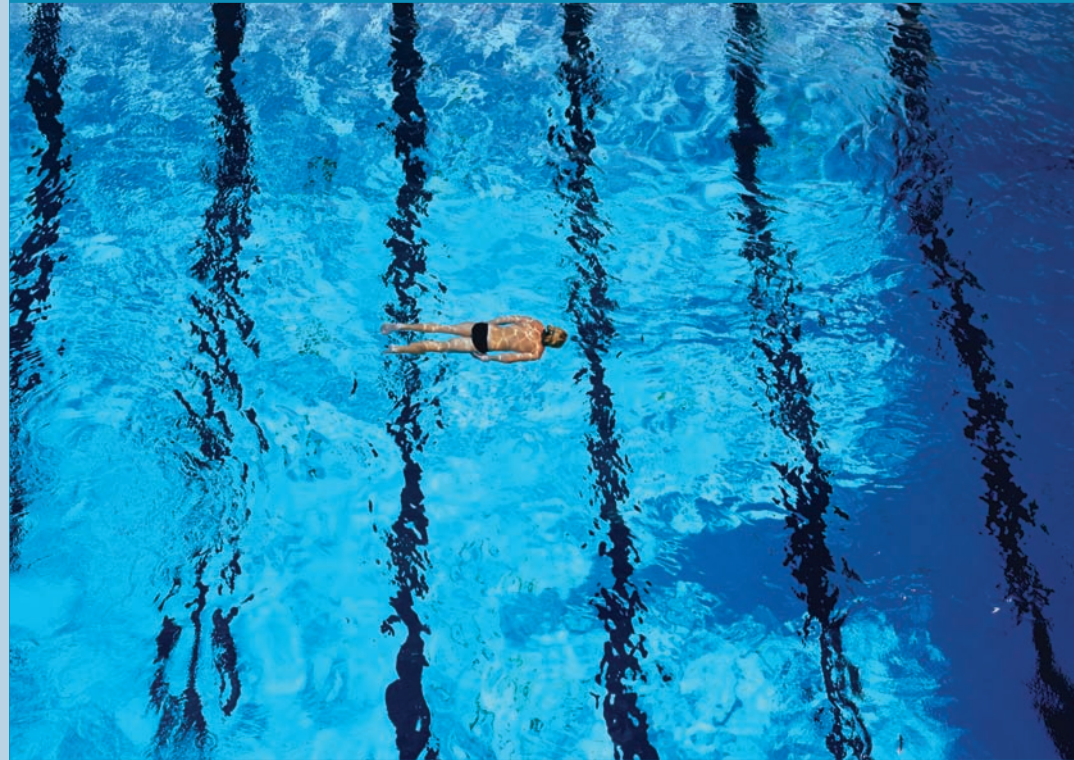
Juan Gomez and Neva Sills, courtesy of Art Advisory Services, Inc.
Joel Meyerowitz and Robert Polidori, courtesy of Edwynn Houk Gallery
Laura McPhee courtesy of Bonni Benrubi Gallery

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THIS IS BIG

JUAN GOMEZ, LAURA MCPHEE, JOEL MEYEROWITZ
ROBERT POLIDORI, NEVA SILLS



Joel Meyerowitz, *The Elements: Air/Water Part 1, Number 1, 2007*, Chromogenic print

This Is Big: Five Large-Scale Contemporary Paintings and Photographs, explores the power and impact of the oversized image. The artists included are Juan Gomez (New York); Laura McPhee (Boston); Robert Polidori (Paris and New York); Joel Meyerowitz (New York) and Neva Sills (Chicago).

JULY 15 – OCTOBER 7, 2008

Neva Sills, *Forest Flyers*, 2005



Laura McPhee, *Saree Shop, Newmarket, Calcutta, India, 1998*



Robert Polidori, *Self-Portrait of the King's Portraitist....., Versailles, 1985*



The scope of representation included in this show ranges from **Robert Polidori's** documentary photos of monumental architecture to **Neva Sills'** grand theatrical paintings and **Joel Meyerowitz's** mesmerizing photographic records of place, light and space. It extends from **Juan Gomez's** masterful painting that alternates between abstraction and figuration, to the poignant juxtaposition of present colliding with past in **Laura McPhee's** photograph of a Calcutta Saree shop.

These large-scale images follow a tradition of American landscape art in which painters such as Frederick Church and photographers like Timothy O'Sullivan depicted the grandeur of the land and their experience of it, by writing it large.

Monumentality in contemporary art has a complex significance for photographers, and painters. For photographers, large-scale photographs may signify the availability of new technology - originally developed for billboards and other signs - to

make big prints possible. Painters, on the other hand, have long had the ability to use scale as a means of expression. Artist Juan Gomez explains that "painting and architecture are linked in the public consciousness; and they are both related in purpose. The design of the built environment is expressed physically. Physicality is painting's unique language. I want to reach large audiences, for which reason scale plays a role."

The five artists included in *This is Big* use large-scale pictures to create grand statements about the vastness of time and space.

Juan Gomez was born and raised in Bogota, Colombia and moved to the United States in 1990. He has exhibited his work at Audiello Fine Arts, Art in General, Lombard-Freid Projects and Momenta Art in New York City, the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield, CT, and Turner & Runyon Gallery in Dallas, TX. Gomez currently lives and works in New York City.

Laura McPhee, born in New York City, studied at Princeton University and the Rhode Island School of Design. She was awarded a Fulbright Scholars fellowship to work in India and Sri Lanka, as well as a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship. In addition to an exhibition of her work at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, her photographs are in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the J. Paul Getty Center Museum, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, among others.

Joel Meyerowitz is an award-winning photographer whose work has appeared in over 350 exhibitions in museums and galleries around the world. Born in New York, he is a "street photographer" in the tradition of Henri Cartier-Bresson and Robert Frank, although he works exclusively in color. He is the author of 14 books including *Aftermath: The World Trade Center Archive*, *Bystander: The History of Street Photography*, and *Tuscany: Inside the Light*. He is a Guggenheim fellow and a

recipient of both NEA and NEH awards. His work is in many collections including the Museum of Modern Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

Robert Polidori was born in Montreal, Canada, and is now a staff photographer with *The New Yorker* magazine as well as a frequent contributor to *Vanity Fair*. He has received numerous honors, including a World Press Award for his coverage of the Getty Museum and two Alfred Eisenstaedt Awards for his work in Havana and Brasilia. In 2006, the Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibited a series of his photos about New Orleans, *After the Flood*, which was the most highly-attended photography show in the history of the Met. Polidori lives in both in Paris and New York City.

Neva Sills is an emerging artist. She has been included in numerous group shows throughout the United States and has had five one-person exhibitions. She currently lives and works in Chicago.

Rebecca Shea