

Kristina Kite Gallery

Hervé Guibert

March 4 – March 31, 2018

Kristina Kite Gallery, in collaboration with Callicoon Fine Arts, New York, is pleased to present an exhibition of photographs by French writer and photographer Hervé Guibert (1955–1991). The exhibition of 20 vintage prints marks the first time Guibert's photographs will be exhibited in California.

Trying his small Rollei camera—a gift from his father that he would continue to use throughout his life—for the first time at age 18, Guibert attempted to shoot a portrait of his mother when he considered her to be at the peak of her beauty. His horror in discovering that the film was loaded incorrectly incited a desire to continue, to recover a loss that presciently mirrored much of his later experiences.

Guibert photographed his great-aunts, parents, and lovers, rarely at home in Paris, more often as if they were characters in a travel journal. He also photographed the ever shifting tableau of his writing desk, including manuscript pages, his typewriter, and the spare rooms of his apartment in an exploration of the possibilities of photography. Guibert's photographs also capture close subjects, like the actress Gina Lollobrigida, and strangers in such a way that the aura of their relationship, however brief or profound, remains in the image, "like a once familiar object to an amnesiac."

In contrast to the quiet intimacy of his photographs, Guibert was a media figure that participated in the public dialogue around AIDS, challenging and transforming perspectives on the disease, sexuality, and self-representation. Producing hundreds of photographs and some thirty novels in his short 36 years, Guibert's most noted book, *À l'ami qui ne m'a pas sauvé la vie (To the Friend Who Did Not Save My Life)* (1990), chronicles the quotidian specter of death during the last years of the life of his friend and mentor, Michel Foucault. As a correspondent with Roland Barthes and critic for *Le Monde*, Guibert also added to the critical discourse on photography and, in 1982, published a book on the subject entitled *L'image Fantôme (Ghost Image)*.

In 2011, Guibert's work was the subject of a retrospective at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris. In 2013, Callicoon Fine Arts held the first of several group exhibitions, curated by artists Moyra Davey and Jason Simon, that related Guibert's work to that of other artists. A solo exhibition at the gallery in New York in 2014 coincided with the publication of *The Mausoleum of Lovers: Journals 1976–1991* by Nightboat Books, in an English translation by Nathanaël. Another solo exhibition, *Hervé Guibert: How could it be otherwise* (2017), was curated by Dan Berger and John Neff at Iceberg Projects in Chicago. Most recently, portfolios of Guibert's work have appeared in *Aperture*, *OSMOS Magazine*, and *Capricious*, among other publications. Guibert's photographs have also been included in group exhibitions at Bridget Donahue, New York, and Galerie Buchholz, Berlin. A two-person exhibition that includes Guibert's photographs, curated by Janique Vigier, opens at the CCS Bard Galleries at the Hessel Museum of Art, Annandale-on-Hudson, this April. In 2019, an exhibition of Guibert's photographs will take place at Griffin Art Projects, Vancouver.

This exhibition is part of a gallery share program between Hannah Hoffman, Kristina Kite, and Park View/Paul Soto.

Kristina Kite Gallery is located at 3400 W. Washington Blvd. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm. For images and additional information, please contact info@kristinakitegallery.la.

in Los Angeles