

# SIKKEMA JENKINS&CO.

**MITCH EPSTEIN**

*Property Rights*

September 3 – October 5, 2019

Sikkema Jenkins & Co. is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new photographs by Mitch Epstein. His new series, entitled *Property Rights*, is on view from September 3 through October 5, 2019.

*Property Rights* is a vivid series of large format photographs made across the United States. In an era largely defined by issues of citizenship, immigration, and environmental degradation, Epstein frames the land itself as a charged site of both discord and unity.

*Property Rights* began in 2017, during Epstein's visit to Standing Rock Indian Reservation in Sioux County, North Dakota. In resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline and the threat of contamination of primary fresh water sources, protest camps were set up along the pipeline route by a coalition of indigenous tribes from across the Americas and "water protectors" from around the world. Similar pipeline protests occurred in the same year in other parts of the country. Epstein subsequently photographed in Lancaster and Huntington, Pennsylvania, where local residents formed a coalition against energy companies profiting off the land at the community's expense by way of eminent domain.

Meanwhile, In the Southwest United States, tensions along the border of Mexico and the US have only continued to increase under the current administration's policies. Epstein photographed at the border towns of Nogales and Bisbee, Arizona, and El Paso, Texas. Between vigilante border patrol and refugee activists, these towns have become the focal points of opposing agendas regarding the relationship between citizenship and land.

*Property Rights* intersperses these images of conflict and resistance with sweeping photographs of some of the United States' most iconic National Monuments. With the recent rollback of federal protections, many of these Monuments are currently vulnerable to damage, as the government allows corporations to exploit them.

Characterized by Epstein's perceptive gaze and striking use of color, *Property Rights* presents the current relationship between humans and natural land as one fraught with contradictions. Land can be a site of resistance, of community, of tension, and of deep reverence for the natural world; above all, the dignity of land is inexplicably tied to the communities and individuals who inhabit it.

Born 1952 in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Mitch Epstein is a pioneer in the field of color photography. His photographic series include *Rocks and Clouds* (2018); *New York Arbor* (2013); *Berlin* (2011); *American Power* (2009); *Recreation: American Photographs 1973-1988*; and *Family Business* (2003).

Epstein's photographs are included in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum, New York, NY; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; Tate Modern in London; the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, California; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California, among others. Recent solo exhibitions include *New York Arbor* at Musée de la Photographie André Villers, Mougins (2017); *Rocks and Clouds* at Yancey Richardson, New York (2016); *New York Arbor* at Fondation a Sticking, Brussels (2013); Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, Paris (2011), Kunstmuseum Bonn (2011); Musée de l'Elysée in Lausanne (2011); and Open Eye Gallery in Liverpool (2011).

His books include the forthcoming *Sunshine Hotel* (Steidl & PPP, 2019), *Berlin* (Steidl & The American Academy in Berlin, 2011), *American Power* (Steidl, 2009), *Mitch Epstein: Work* (Steidl, 2006), *Recreation: American Photographs 1973-1988* (Steidl 2005), and *Family Business* (Steidl 2003), which received the Kraszna-Krausz Photography Book Award.

A Guggenheim Fellow and Prix Pictet laureate, Epstein has also worked as a director, cinematographer, and production designer on several films, including *Dad*, *Salaam Bombay!*, and *Mississippi Masala*.

**UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS:**

VIK MUNIZ

OCT. 10 – NOV. 16

**UPCOMING ART FAIRS:**

FRIEZE LONDON

OCT. 3 – 6

For additional information please contact Scott Briscoe at 212.929.2262 or [scott@sikkemajenkinsco.com](mailto:scott@sikkemajenkinsco.com).

530 W 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET - NEW YORK, NY 10011  
212.929.2262 - GALLERY@SIKKEMAJENKINS.CO.COM  
OPEN TUESDAY – SATURDAY 10 TO 6