

BIRTHE PIONTEK: JANUS

September 10 — October 13, 2020

Featured Exhibition of the Capture Photography Festival



“Hyacinth, Janus Series”,
archival print,
17 x 23 inches,
edition of 7 + 1 AP.

Gallery Jones is pleased to present JANUS, the new series of photographs by Birthe Piontek. Piontek’s work has been exhibited internationally, in both solo and group shows, and is featured in many private and public collections such as the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago and the Museum of Applied Arts in Gera, Germany.

Piontek’s project *The Idea of North* won the Critical Mass Book Award 2009, and was published as a monograph in 2011. Her most recent work, *Abendlied*, received the Edward Burtynsky Grant in 2018 and was nominated by Time Magazine as one of the best photo books in 2019 .

Piontek is an Assistant Professor of Photography in the Audain Faculty of Art at Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver and a member of the Cake Collective.

Curatorial Statement:

Much of Birthe Piontek’s work to date has had an emotional gravitas peppered with a wry appreciation of the absurd. Her work is succinct, and using the photographic bounds of light, shadow, symbol and composition she is able to elucidate a narrative of place, time and human experience. In her new body of work, this formalism comes up against the wave of change: change of body, change of mind, change of state of being. Disembodied elements of the artist’s physical self interact with equally temporal set pieces such as gourds, flowers and fruit. In some cases, this unlikely alliance is forced into being by a pair of nylons: the absurd is beginning to dictate terms to the norm. Like the Roman god after whom the exhibition is named, Piontek is giving substance to the change that comes as deliberately as sunlight across a room.

— Shane O’Brien