

SILAS VON MORISSE GALLERY

SERGIO PURTELL

(American, b. 1955 in Santiago, Chile, lives and works in Brooklyn, NY)



Purtell's, most recent project, *Love's Labour*, published July 1st, 2020 by Stanley Barker London, reveals images from Purcell's Summers in Europe, from 1979 to 1984, where the young photographer would buy an inexpensive roundtrip ticket from New York to London, and from there get a Eurail pass so he could move freely and cheaply around Europe. Paris, Monaco, London, Madrid, Berlin, reminded Purcell strangely of his life in Santiago. Europe was a strange new world yet familiar with its mannerisms, customs, architecture, and relaxed attitude towards life, the mornings in cafes, and afternoons lounging by the cool of a fountain, and finishing the day at the local bar with a glass of wine.

*"A young man sets out to find his Love. As he traverses the European continent, he learns to forget the past, live in the present, and appreciate the journey. How does one fall in love? By being present, an act that is unavoidable when making pictures in the world. In photography, love is not blind—although many things can, deceptively, go unnoticed: a small gesture, the radiance of a glance, the texture of skin, the shape of a neck, a flitting blush, downcast eyes, a modest grace. Love can be a connection to something greater than ourselves, or the thing that shows us who we are. It requires relentless dedication. The fountains merge with the river and rivers with the ocean and the waves embrace each other."*

- Sergio Purcell

In his photographic project, *Real*, Sergio Purcell chose to bear witness to ongoing gentrification of areas in Brooklyn, NY, and Massachusetts. As *"the cycle and recycle continues and the cities and their landscapes evolve according to the needs of the population,"* he documents the architecture and landscape of industrial era being abandoned, and traditional neighborhood communities displaced. His visual sensitivity

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towards landscapes and their people, was formed during his childhood travels across the Chilean landscape, both busy streets of Santiago, and lonely expanses of the PanAmerican Highway to Patagonia. Purtell also credits the obsessive narratives of Chilean author Roberto Bolaño among his most important influences, which also include photographers Tod Papageorge and Richard Benson, both his university mentors, who encouraged him to return to artistic photography. Sergio Purtell moved from his native Santiago de Chile to the US in 1973. He received his BFA in photography from the RISD, where he studied with Paul Krot (Sprint Systems of Photography). He earned a MFA at Yale (1982), where he studied with Richard Benson, master printer, photographer and teacher. His visual photographic language was formed by Harry Callahan and Tod Papageorge. Purtell went on to teach photography in New Haven until he moved to New York City in the mid-1980's.

As fine art photographer he has been exhibiting worldwide, with most interest in his work in Europe. In the 1990s he turned to commercial photography and worked for design studios, prestigious magazines and publishers. Purtell went on to pursue his love of fine art printing and in 1996 opened print studio Black and White on White, printing works of distinguished photographers (his first job was for the Walker Evans estate). The studio is now located in Bushwick, Brooklyn, where he continues his collaboration with other photographers, and again works on his own fine art photography.

## BIOGRAPHY

1955 Born in Santiago, Chile  
Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

## EDUCATION

1982 MFA in photography, Yale University, New Haven, CT  
1980 BFA in photography, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015

Sergio Purtell, *In Brooklyn: Architectures of Disappearance*, April 8 - May 17, ART 3  
(Silas von Morisse Gallery), Brooklyn NY

1987

Sergio Purtell, Fotogaleria Nueva Imagen, Pamplona, Spain 1986 Sergio Purtell,  
Chambre Claire, Paris, France

Sergio Purtell, Foto Centre, Lerida, Spain

Sergio Purtell, Housatonic Museum of Art, Bridgeport, CT

Sergio Purtell, Jean-Luc Mayoussier Gallery, Bridgeport, CT

Sergio Purtell, Bay Vista Gallery, Florida International University, Miami, FL

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1985

Sergio Purtell, Fotogalerie, Hamburg, Germany

Sergio Purtell, Galerie XYZ, Ghent, Belgium

Sergio Purtell, Forum Fotogaleria, Tarragona, Spain

Sergio Purtell, Canon Photo Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

1982-86

Sergio Purtell, Laughlin/Winkler Gallery, Boston, MA

1982-83

Sergio Purtell, Arturo Edwards Gallery, Santiago, Chile

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2017

*Brooklyn Photographs*, curated by Elizabeth Ferrer, BRIC Brooklyn, NY (catalogue)

2014

*Inaugural Exhibition*, Silas von Morisse, Brooklyn, NY

Bushwick Open Studios, Silas von Morisse, Brooklyn, NY

*The Contemporary Landscape through the eyes of four international photographers*,

Adolfo Doring, Andre von Morisse, Sergio Purtell, Silas Shabelewska, curated by Andre von Morisse, February 27 - April 12, Soufer Gallery, New York, NY

1986

Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, IL

The Photographers Gallery, London, England

Das Akfoto, Munich, Germany

Center Aalst, Belgium

Fotogalerie, Cardiff, Wales

Semana International Fotografia, Guadalajara, Spain Folkestone Museum, Kent, UK

Usher Gallery, Lincoln, England

Cartwright Hall, Bradford, England

1985

Musee Reattu, Arles, France

Boulder Center for Visual Arts, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO F32 Gallery,

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Museum of Arts and Sciences, Bridgeport, CT

Palais Congres, Royan, France

1983

Joseloff Gallery, University of Hartford, Hartford, CT Lyman Allyn Museum, New London, CT

Clara M Eagle, Murray State University, KY 1982 Museum of Fine Arts, Santiago, Chile

Kern Gallery, Pennsylvania State University, PA Panamerican Art Institute, Panama City, Panama

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### SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France

Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

Museum of Fine Arts, Santiago, Chile

Museum of Contemporary Art, Panama, Panama

Fotografie Forum, Frankfurt, Germany

Das Akfoto, Munich, Germany

Stichting Foto, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Private collections in USA, Germany Japan, France, Italy, Holland, Spain, Belgium, Chile and Panama

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2014

ARTSY Editorial, Featured by ARTSY | Mixed Media in Brooklyn: ART 3 opens its

Inaugural Exhibition in Bushwick, May 2014, illus.

alexandrareboul.com, on ART 3 Gallery Inaugural Exhibition, by Alexandra Reboul, May 2014, illus.

1987

Das Akfoto, Munich, Germany

Navarra Hoy, Pamplona, Spain, Sergio Purtell, Después de un siglo sigue siendo la hija bastarda del arte, Aug. 8, 1987,

Diario de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain, "Aprender a aprender de fotografía" objetivo del curso de Sergio Purtell, by T. Burgui, Aug. 7, 1987

DEIA, Pamplona, Spain, El nivel fotográfico es bueno gracias al apetito intelectual suscitado, Aug. 6, 1987

1986

Tushita, Duisbourg, Germany

Café-Crème Magazine, Quatre Photographes Américains: Frailey, Majore, Prince, Purtell (Four American Photographers), by J.C. Chirrollet, Luxembourg, p. 27

1986

Photographie, Portfolio, by Martin Sigrist, Schaffhausen, Switzerland, no. 7/86, July

1986

Boston Globe, Jones' color work looks familiar; Purtell's images strong, suggestive, Mar. 12.

1986

Focus, Sergio Purtell. Portfolio, Jun. 1986

1985

Aperture #101, The Human Street, Public Postures, New York, NY

Cliches Magazine, Le Soleil Dans Le Corps, by Pierre Borhan, Bruxelles, Belgium, no. 12, Dec.

XYZ Fotografie, Sergio Purtell, by Marc Van Roy, Ghent, Belgium, no. 11, Apr.

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Focus Magazine, Portfolio, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Foto Magazine, Portofolio, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Foto Magazine, Anthrop, Belgium

1983

International Recherche Photographique, Royan, France

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2008

Guest Critic, Photography Department, Columbia University, New York, NY 1987

Workshop (Myth, Fiction & Allegory), Festivals de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain

Guest Critic, School of Visual Arts, Photography, New York, NY

1985

Guest Critic, Graduate Photography Department, Yale University, New Haven, CT 1983-86

Instructor in Photography, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT 1983-84

Guest Critic in Photography, Graduate Architectural Design Department, Yale

University, New Haven, CT

1982-86

Lecturer in History of Photography, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT