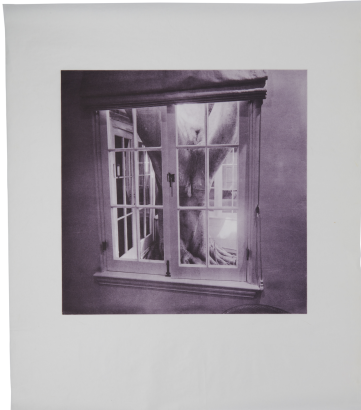


B E N R U B I G A L L E R Y

STEPHEN HILGER: GOING HOME

ONLINE EXHIBITION: November 8 - December 3, 2021



Benrubi Gallery is pleased to announce *Going Home*, the gallery's first exhibition with **Stephen Hilger**.

Going Home presents a series of photographs made by Hilger over a period of more than twenty years that distills everyday experience in and around his family home. Utilizing the photogravure process, Hilger constructs an archive of pictures that establish what was once his grandmother's, and is now his mother's home, as the protagonist in a visual memoir

that renders visible entropic changes and patterns of absence and presence over time.

By transferring black and white negatives to a copperplate, which is then etched and printed with oil-based ink, Hilger employs an arduous process that is reflective of his preoccupation with the mortality and mourning of generations of inhabitants in this house. The artist's choice to imbue his images with different colors of printmaking inks on varying colors of hand-made sheets of paper activates the observational approach of documentary photography to an emotional and elegiac meditation of what has passed. In Hilger's words, the photogravures on the tissue-like gampi appear "as thin and imperfect as human skin. They are objects as much as they are images." Each photogravure is a unique hand-made work that embodies intimate scenes from his family's home, shaded through the lens of subjective memory. Although rooted in reality, Hilger's photographs depict moments that have disappeared.

Stephen Hilger was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, a place that frequently recurs as a subject in his work. He studied as an undergraduate and graduate at Columbia University. After receiving his M.F.A. from Columbia School of the Arts, Hilger attended the Whitney Museum of Art's Independent Study Program. Hilger is currently an Associate Professor of Photography at Pratt Institute and lives in Brooklyn, NY.

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Biography

Stephen Hilger is a photographer whose work traces historical and personal memory. For more than two decades Hilger has looked to Los Angeles as a subject through a series of photographs that range from meditations on the personal spaces of his family home to the public spaces of alleys, boulevards and hotels throughout Greater Los Angeles.

Hilger has exhibited at venues including Acta International, Rome; Los Angeles Contemporary Art Exhibitions; Black Dragon Society, Los Angeles; the Contemporary Art Center New Orleans; and Transmitter, Brooklyn. Hilger's monograph, *Back of Town* (SPQR Editions, 2016), chronicles the disappearance of a neighborhood in New Orleans. *BLVD*, a limited edition publication (ROMAN NVMERALS, 2017) presents visual motifs at the intersection of public and private spaces throughout Los Angeles. His photographs are in the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the New Orleans Museum of Art. Hilger's photographs have appeared in periodicals including *New York Magazine* and the *New York Times*. He has written about photography and contemporary art such as *Aperture's PhotoBook Review* and *BOMB*.

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