

SARAH SHEPARD

GALLERY & ART ADVISORY

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Marc Alcock

*Outside*

October 30 - December 9, 2020

Sarah Shepard Gallery is pleased to present the first solo exhibition with California based British photographer Marc Alcock. Featuring 11 photographs from his series, *California Topiary*, together with images from his *Windows* series, some made as recently as shelter-in-place using his outdoor environment as an inspiration point. The two bodies of work come together within the context of this exhibition: *Outside*.

In 2010 Alcock moved to San Francisco from the north of England. In contrast to the homogeneous style of residential architecture in his home town, he found the buildings in California endlessly unique and playful in their design. In the resulting series, *California Topiary*, Alcock photographed a series of homes around the Bay Area with a distinct relationship to plants and nature. The photographs describe the ways in which we manipulate the natural environment to suit our needs and aesthetic. The home portraits encourage us to welcome and value these considered qualities in our built environment, specifically how plants can function as sculpture - whether monumental, wild or artfully manipulated. *California Topiary* became a self-published book by Alcock in 2018. The investigative look at the topiaries in the postwar developments of San Francisco is reminiscent of the story photographers like Bernd & Hilla Becher famously told when they worked in 'typologies', returning to utilitarian structures in different locations. Together the pictures tell a story of purpose while celebrating inherent differences.

In Alcock's more recent series *Windows*, he has continued to find inspiration in the outdoor environs of San Francisco, both in the Mission District, and more recently in his outdoor environment at home. Alcock has constructed floral still lives in his garden through layers of glass using water, paint and light, exploring glass diffractions. A window can be transparent, offering a clear view in or out of a space. However, light and other matter on the glass can change our view. The precision Alcock brings to his images is measured and impactful.

Marc Alcock is originally from Blackpool, England, graduated from the University of Leeds, and re-located to California in 2010. Alcock's work has been published in photography journals such as IGNANT, Formagramma, Domus, Booooooom and Creative Review.

The gallery is currently open Tuesday - Saturday from 11-4pm, or by appointment. We have strict social distancing measures in place allowing only a few visitors inside the space at once and mandatory face coverings are required.

The artist will be present at the gallery for a social distanced visit on two occasions: Saturday, October 31st from 1-4pm and Saturday, November 21st from 1-4pm.

For more information contact sarah@sarahshepardgallery.com or 917-375-2720.