

Matt Lipps
Solve for X
 September 10 - October 24, 2020

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Yancey Richardson is pleased to present *Solve for X*, Matt Lipps' debut solo exhibition with the gallery. The exhibition will be open to the public from Thursday, September 10 through Saturday, October 24, 2020.

Over the past twenty years, Lipps has developed a distinctive photographic practice that pays tribute to the history of twentieth century photography while also questioning the dominant myths that structure our cultural narratives. The exhibition presents new work from two related but distinct series, both of which incorporate analogue photography, collage and printed media. The first, begun in 2019, merges documentary photographs from the male-oriented magazine *US Camera Annual* with iconic 1990s fashion images published in *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*.

In the second series, undertaken in 2020, Lipps reconsiders the photographs included in MoMA's widely seen, highly controversial 1955 *Family of Man* exhibition and catalogue. In exploring the role of mass media in forming the photographic canon and structuring gender, Lipps simultaneously questions the disparate notions about both genres: shallow commerce versus deep investigation; ephemeral style versus timeless documents; and femininity versus masculinity. Concurrent with *Solve for X*, Marc Selwyn Fine Art, Los Angeles, will present Lipps's *The Body Wants to Live*, an exhibition devoted solely to the *Family of Man* series.

As a young photographer discovering his queer identity, Lipps immersed himself in the glamorous pages of *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*, privately identifying with the supermodels and scrutinizing the work of leading fashion photographers like Richard Avedon and Irving Penn. Simultaneously, he studied the history and techniques of twentieth century masters like W. Eugene Smith, Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Bill Brandt and Margaret Bourke White. While revisiting the photographs of twentieth century modernism to understand how they have informed our collective memory, Lipps also points out that "Fashion photography is, ultimately, not superficial. Its hyperbolic space of idealized female figures invades our bodies and minds, channels desire, coaches gender performance, and structures class identities. It has a profound influence on culture."

For *Solve for X*, Lipps has meticulously cut out portions of the journalistic images and layered them onto freestanding cardboard silhouettes of supermodels in animated poses, creating three-dimensional tableaux that are then re-photographed and enlarged. The resulting image-laden figures function as both surface and aperture while the combination of gritty realism and feminized sexuality creates new and unexpected readings. For Lipps, revealing parts of the process is key: the tape used in assembling the figures is left visible in many of the works, the reflective glare creating a glossiness that speaks to the magazine pages in which these images originally appeared.

Lipps' appreciation for the physicality of photography and the tactility of the printed page is refreshing in our increasingly virtual present. In physically constructing his images, Lipps addresses photography's ability to shape reality, manufacture emotion, script identity, warp memory and dictate desire. In these unstable times, his work offers a nuanced examination of the ease with which meaning can be manipulated and constantly reframed.

Matt Lipps (b. 1975) holds a BFA in Photography from California State University and an MFA from the University of California Irvine. His work is in the permanent collections of major museums including The Getty Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles and the Hammer Museum. He has also participated in exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, The Getty Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Lipps lives and works in Los Angeles.

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Image: *Pose*, 2020. Gelatin silver print, 11 x 14 inches

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All prices include framing.

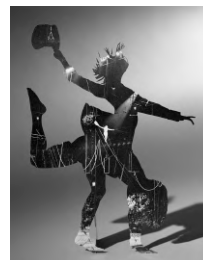
1. Matt Lipps
Blowup, 2019
Archival pigment print
60 1/4 x 81 1/2 inches
Edition of 5
\$18,000



2. Matt Lipps
Holds, 2019
Gelatin silver print
Image: 14 x 11 inches
Frame: 20 5/8 x 17 5/8 inches
Edition of 5
\$6,000



3. Matt Lipps
Balance, 2020
Gelatin silver print
Image: 14 x 11 inches
Frame: 20 5/8 x 17 5/8 inches
Edition of 5
\$6,000



4. Matt Lipps
No. 000, 2020
Gelatin silver print
Image: 14 x 11 inches
Frame: 20 5/8 x 17 5/8 inches
Edition of 5
\$6,000



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5. Matt Lipps
Ladder, 2019
Gelatin silver print
Image: 14 x 11 inches
Frame: 20 5/8 x 17 5/8 inches
Edition of 5
\$6,000



6. Matt Lipps
Burst, 2020
Gelatin silver print
Image: 14 x 11 inches
Frame: 20 5/8 x 17 5/8 inches
Edition of 5
\$6,000



7. Matt Lipps
Fluid, 2019
Archival pigment print
51 3/8 x 95 1/4 inches
Edition of 5
\$18,000



8. Matt Lipps
Ride, 2019
Archival pigment print
40 7/8 x 31 3/8 inches
Edition of 5
\$11,000



9. Matt Lipps
No. 140, 2020
Gelatin silver print
Image: 14 x 18 inches
Frame: 20 3/4 x 24 5/8 inches
Edition of 5
\$6,500



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10. Matt Lipps
Birds, 2019
Gelatin silver print
Image: 14 x 17 1/2 inches
Frame: 20 3/4 x 24 5/8 inches
Edition of 5
\$6,500



11. Matt Lipps
Stance, 2019
Gelatin silver print
Image: 14 x 17 1/2 inches
Frame: 20 3/4 x 24 5/8 inches
Edition of 5
\$6,500



12. Matt Lipps
Pose, 2020
Gelatin silver print
Image: 14 x 17 1/2 inches
Frame: 20 3/4 x 24 5/8 inches
Edition of 5
\$6,500



13. Matt Lipps
Peaks, 2019
Archival pigment print
54 5/8 x 82 inches
Edition of 5
\$18,000



14. Matt Lipps
No. 180, 2020
Gelatin silver print
Image: 14 x 18 inches
Frame: 20 3/4 x 24 5/8 inches
Edition of 5
\$6,500



