

# RICHARD GRAY GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**John Stezaker**

*The Truth of Masks*

**Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago**

**November 5 – December 12, 2015**

**Opening Reception: November 5, 6pm – 8pm**



John Stezaker, *Double Shadow XLIII*, 2015, collage, 9 1/4 x 11 3/4 inches (23.5 x 29.8 cm)

**October 7, 2015 (Chicago)** – Richard Gray Gallery is pleased to announce *The Truth of Masks*, an exhibition of new collages by **John Stezaker**. This is the artist's second exhibition with the gallery and presents the most comprehensive U.S. gallery exhibition of the artist's collages to date. An illustrated catalogue with essay by London-based scholar Michael Bracewell accompanies the exhibition. *The Truth of Masks* will run from November 5 through December 12, 2015, with an opening reception for the artist on November 5 from 6pm to 8pm.

For the past forty years John Stezaker has taken the position of an image flâneur, meandering through the endless archives of vintage Hollywood film stills, anonymous found photographs and antique travel postcards. Employing imagery from these sources, Stezaker transforms his photographs through

alterations, deletions, inversions and juxtapositions, finding pictorial allegiances among far-flung sources. As Michael Bracewell notes in his catalogue essay, the core of Stezaker's practice is the "hybridization of second-hand images" in which divergent cultural associations are mutated and re-directed. They become, in effect, "transmissions of a Mass Age dream world."

*The Truth of Masks* draws from several strains of the artist's work, all united through meticulous juxtaposition. Glamorous silver screen headshots and film stills are laid beneath vintage colored postcards of the idyllic English landscape. Loving couples and glossy film stars are transfigured by bridges, trees and oceans. These recombinations pose more questions than answers, drawing relationships between seemingly incompatible images that nonetheless find surrealistic resolution. In the series titled "Double Shadows," Stezaker complicates the reading of an image by placing a cut-out silhouette over an inverted scene, resulting in a visually confusing yet intuitively coherent arrangement of line and form. Throughout his work Stezaker pinpoints the tension of opposites to achieve elusive and otherworldly effects.

John Stezaker (b. 1949, England) was awarded the Deutsche Borse Photography prize in 2012. He has had solo exhibitions at the Netherlands Fotomuseum, Rotterdam; Centre de la Photographie, Geneva, Switzerland; Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel; The Whitechapel Gallery, London; and the Mildred Lane Kemper Museum of Art, St. Louis, among others. His work is in museum collections around the world including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Seattle Art Museum, Washington; the Saatchi Collection, London; and the Tate Modern, London. He lives and works in London.

#### **UPCOMING FROM RICHARD GRAY GALLERY**

*Bethany Collins: Inquiry's End*, through October 31, 2015

*Evelyn Statsinger: A Gathering*, through November 14, 2015

*John Stezaker: The Truth of Masks*, November 5 – December 12, 2015

Richard Gray Gallery at Art Basel Miami Beach, December 3 – 6, 2015

Alex Katz, February, 2016

*Richard Gray Gallery is open 10am – 5:30pm, Monday – Friday; 10am – 5pm Saturday*

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For inquiries, please contact:

Gan Uyeda

Richard Gray Gallery

312.642.8877

gu@richardgraygallery.com

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