

rodolphe janssen

INFO@RODOLPHEJANSSEN.COM – WWW.RODOLPHEJANSSEN.COM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peter Sutherland

25.10 > 22.11.2014

One day, a beautiful woman wrote Peter Sutherland on Facebook to tell him that she liked his photos. She invited him to visit her in Nepal, where she was living at the time, and he obliged.

During a second trip to Nepal a few years later, they were married.

Peter Sutherland's films, photography, publications, and installations are intimate documents of his extensive travels, collages of encounters that form spontaneously interconnected narratives. For his first solo exhibition at Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Peter will present an installation comprised of two series of works that juxtapose a web of stories and iconographies – from healing rocks and inexpensive construction materials, to majestic mountain scapes and Colorado bonfires.

In one series, large-scale photographs of towering Himalayan mountains, a visual memento of Sutherland and his wife's love story, are mounted on commonplace plywood, its grain and industrial markings peering through the snowy caps. While the everyday familiarity of the plywood stands in stark contrast to the otherworldliness of the Nepalese mountain range, the two elements seem strangely at home with one another, as if they are actors in a story whose paths may cross even though they never meet.

Meanwhile, a series of geodes – cross-sectioned volcanic rocks revealing their crystal cores – linger on the ground nearby. Geodes are a common sight in New Age households, known for their energy-healing powers. These geodes, though, are dressed in images of flames, taken from a massive bonfire Peter once started at a Colorado ranch. Here again, the mystical and the sensational rub against the spontaneous and the uncomplicated.

Despite the inherent poetry of Peter Sutherland's installations, there persists a subtle refusal to be taken too seriously. At its heart, his work employs the patience of a serendipitous documentarian, waiting for precisely the right moment for objects, stories, and contexts to align.

About the artist :

Peter Sutherland (born 1976, Ann Arbor, MI) lives and works in New York City, USA. Recent solo exhibitions include One Bar of Service, Stillhouse Gallery (Brooklyn); Extreme Terrain (with Andrew Sutherland), Bill Brady KC Gallery (Kansas City); and Victory Over Darkness, Half Gallery (NYC). He frequently collaborates with his brother, Andrew Sutherland, and with the Brooklyn-based collective, Still House Group.

Bitsy Knox