

Photo London Fair
Booth D7
Solo Presentation: Liz Nielsen
18 – 21 May 2017 | Preview day 17 May
Somerset House, London
#liznielsen | @nextlevelgalerie



Liz Nielsen, *Rainbow*, 2016. Unique analog chromogenic photograph on Fujiflex paper, 144 x 211 cm - 56.7 x 83.1 inches (framed). Courtesy the artist and NextLevel Galerie, Paris.

NextLevel will feature a solo presentation of work by American artist **Liz Nielsen** for its first-ever participation in the Photo London Fair.

The analog color darkroom is a magical place where a pitch-black environment allows only the vision of the mind's eye. There, and without a camera, Nielsen creates unique photograms by building her own negatives and painting with light.

The way she works in the darkroom is like a performance whereby, mixing colors and harmonies, Nielsen creates new gradients. Working with pure color and the edges of each color within the spectrum, she adds and subtracts wavelengths, playing with diffusion and refraction.

Nielsen's negatives resemble flat sculptures with moveable parts into which she pours light. To create them, she cuts out transparent shapes and takes apart handmade cardboard puzzles, then reassembles the different forms in the darkness, layering them in a precise way to allow for multiple exposures on light-sensitive paper. Each piece thus requires much planning yet as controlling light is very difficult, surprises always emerge as she explains: 'The final outcomes are pre-

planned with strong intention and formally composed; but because I'm working with light, they always have some surprises. The light bleeds and spills and doesn't want to be contained.'

Physically moving around the paper as she exposes it, Nielsen variously uses flashlights, bike lights, laser lights, cell phone lights, an enlarger and toy lights to compose and create her images. With so many variables in the process, it is impossible to create the same image twice, making each photogram unique. The paper chosen for her work is important and Nielsen prefers Fuji papers, either Lustre or FujiFlex – the latter in particular thanks to its ultra shiny surface "that is so reflective it looks like liquid. It appears to accentuate the transparency of the colors, making them seem to exist both deep inside the paper and on its surface.

About the artist:

Liz Nielsen (born in Wisconsin 1975) lives and works in Brooklyn, NYC. She received a M.F.A. in Photography at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a B.F.A from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Nielsen is part of this new generation that have returned to the essential elements of analog photography and its processes as subject matter, reimagining the abstract and painterly potential of the medium. Nielsen's work has been exhibited extensively in solo and group shows in Chicago (Zolla/Lieberman Gallery), New York (Danziger, Laurence Miller or David Zwirner Galleries), Berlin, Dublin, Budapest, Paris (NextLevel Gallery). Nielsen's work was part of the J.P. MORGAN CURATOR'S HIGHLIGHTS - «PICTURES-IN-PLAY» at Paris Photo Fair 2016, that was followed by her solo exhibition at NextLevel and since two of her artworks are in the JPMorgan Chase Art Collection. Nielsen's exhibitions have also been reviewed in the New York Times, the New Yorker, Artslant, the Wall Street Journal and Libération, among others.

About NextLevel Galerie:

Founded in 2009 by Isabelle Mesnil in Paris (Marais historic district) and introducing a strong concept-driven roster that embraces all artistic media; the gallery is known for discovering emergent artists and bringing them to an international audience as well as presenting mid-career and established international artists, who create ground-breaking and challenging forms of visual expression. NextLevel participates in key international art fairs and also collaborates on off-site projects with leading institutions and curators.

Current exhibition:

Featured Works "Through the mirror" with:
Marie-Anita Gaube, 20 April – 3 June, 2017
Stefan Kürten, 20 April – 3 June, 2017