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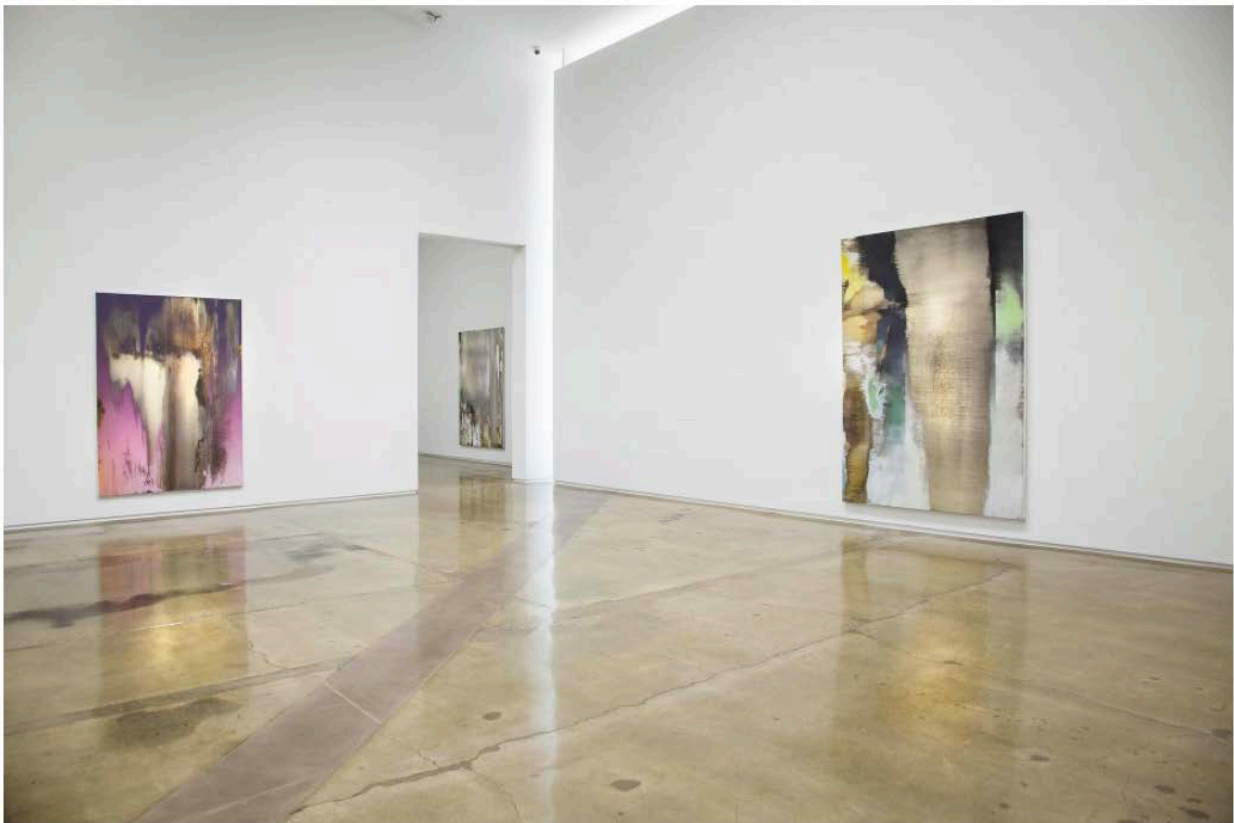
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GALLERY | JULY 31, 2020 | PAUL LASTER



Reopened Galleries Offer Not To Be Missed Solo Shows



COURTESY KOHN GALLERY, LOS ANGELES

Installation view of *Nir Hod: The Life We Left Behind* at Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles.

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With galleries slowly reopening across the Americas, especially in cities where the curve has been flattened, we took a look at the solo shows on view and found a number of exhibitions dealing with concepts of art-making in fresh and exciting ways.



COURTESY THE ARTIST AND ALTMAN SIEGEL, SAN FRANCISCO

Trevor Paglen, *Near Point Arena, Haar*, 2020.

Trevor Paglen: Territory

Altman Siegel, San Francisco

June 25 – August 8, 2020

Following in the footsteps of such great American landscape photographers of the American West as Eadweard Muybridge, Timothy O'Sullivan, and Carleton Watkins (albeit with modern technological means), **Trevor Paglen** examines the relationship between photography and power in a new body of work. Whereas his predecessors were hired to make many of their photographs by state and federal agencies interested in Western expansion and government control over land use, Paglen employed computer vision, facial recognition, and artificial intelligence to create aesthetic images with philosophical undertones.

"This body of work for me is about trying to see how photography and power were coupled together in the past, and to think about how those couplings might be taking place now in the age of computer vision and AI," Paglen proclaimed in a statement on the show's site.

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COURTESY THE ARTIST AND ALTMAN SIEGEL, SAN FRANCISCO, PHOTO: ROBERT DIVERS HERRICK

Installation view of *Trevor Paglen: Territory* at Altman Siegel.

A celebrated artist, geographer, and author whose work often deals with surveillance and data collection, Paglen has put the funds from the numerous awards he's received, including a **MacArthur Genius Grant** in 2017, to maximum use in this project. Shooting old-fashioned, large-format photographs with negative film, which then gets digitally analyzed by AI programs and processed in sunlight using traditional albumen and carbon printing techniques, he brings a bygone—seemingly benign—vision of imperialism into the digital age.

Connecting the dots between the past and the present with the addition of lines, circles, and strokes that signify how computer vision can use mathematical abstractions to analyze such historical sites as Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park and Near Point Arena on the California coast, Paglen makes compelling works of art, which give pleasure to the eye while simultaneously stirring the mind.