

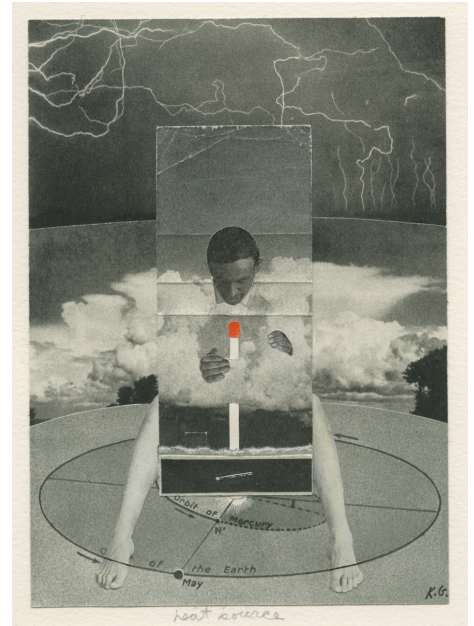
HER FIRST METEORITE

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLAGES

ROSEGALLERY is pleased to present *Her First Meteorite*, a selection of unique photographic collages by Carolle Benitah, James Gallagher, Melinda Gibson, Ken Graves, Stéphanie Solinas, Annegret Soltau, and Grete Stern. The mixed media collages will be on view from 12 September through 28 November 2015.

Found, sliced and assembled, the photographic collage establishes experimental and introspective forms through the combination of familiar and obscure images. The montages from the various artists each evoke a distinct entry into surreal worlds, bound together by connected and intertwined photographs. With found objects and images, the spontaneity of discovery and combination counters the intricacy of the details in the works.

Although half a century apart, Ken Graves' collages and Grete Stern's *Sueños* both re-imagine worlds for the figures on the page. Graves pulls from magazines of Stern's period, the mid twentieth century, and creates moments not bound to time. Celestial and earthbound settings often mingle in his works to create a space free from our known society yet afloat in cultural commentary. Whether a comical social critique by Ken Graves or James Gallagher or an intimate family portrait threaded by Carolle Benitah, the collage generates newfound connections between recognizable forms, creating a unique image independent from our reality while strangely familiar.



Ken Graves, *Heat Source*, 2003

In the early twentieth century, Dadaist montage rejected reason. With ideologies regarding identity at the forefront of political strife, surrealist art attempted to escape the categorization of the self. Allusions to the other, the alternate, and the unknown frequent a surreal image. Examining her own identity, Annegret Soltau states, "to me relying on one permanent identity makes no sense. It makes no sense if you are always supposed to be 'the self,' the one and only 'self'." The multiplicity of her own image, spliced and sewn, demonstrates the substance of the female identity through a critique of the documents that dictate and constrict a woman's role. In a literal interpretation of multiplicity, Solinas' *Phénomènes* depict forty-four sets of twins. Displayed in the manner of a 19th century scientific document, the organization creates a detachment, implying the otherness of the twins in the photographs. Using recognizable imagery in new contexts, these collages present alternate perceptions of our own world, providing a surreal space left for interpretation.

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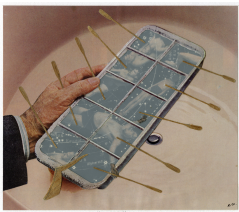
Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Avenue, G5, Santa Monica CA 90404 310.264.8440



Carolle Benitah's sewn and beaded images bridge her past experience as a fashion designer with her current photography. Benitah was born in Casablanca (Morocco) and graduated from the Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne (Paris). Her internationally acclaimed work resides in many public and private collections, such as the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Sunnhordland Museum (Bergen, Norway), and the Centro Fotográfico Álvarez Bravo (Oaxaca, Mexico). Numerous publications, such as *Leica World*, *Photos Nouvelles*, Center for Photography Houston, and *Lens Culture* have published her work. Benitah is currently working on her series' third and final installment, *Adulte*, which will be published in a photo book, with a planned release in 2015.



James Gallagher moved to New York from Michigan to attend the School of Visual Arts, where he studied Graphic Design and Illustration. With his experience in various media, he has worked on many projects from magazines and books to street apparel and pillowcases. Gallagher often combines images from found books, magazines, and manuals to create surreal collages. His art has been shown in *American Illustration*, *Communication Arts*, *Society of Publication Designers*, and numerous *Die Gestalten* Publications. In addition to his art, he is also the curator of the *Cutters* exhibition, which toured New York, Berlin, and Ireland. Gallagher currently resides in Brooklyn and oversees the bi-monthly publication *Secret Behavior*.



Ken Graves, after receiving his B.F.A. and M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute, taught photography for 30 years at Pennsylvania State University. While there, his work shifted from traditional documentary photography to studio-based. Both his photographs and collages have been exhibited in many institutions, such as the New York and San Francisco Museums of Modern Art, Brooklyn Museum, Houston Museum of the Arts, the George Eastman House, and the National Library in Paris, and the Paule Anglim Gallery. In 2001, Graves received the Guggenheim fellowship. Graves currently resides in the Bay Area.



Melinda Gibson graduated from the London College of Communication in 2006, where she studied Photography. While developing her own work, Gibson assisted various photographers, including Martin Parr and Wolfgang Tillmans. In 2010, both *FOAM* magazine and the Magenta Foundation noted and awarded Gibson as an emerging artist. Gibson's delicate collages allow the viewer to see into and beyond the silhouette. Gibson currently lives and works in London.



Stéphanie Solinas studied photography at the ENS Louis Lumiere, Doctor of Fine Arts. Practicing book and installation to further develop the conceptual nature of photography, Solinas plays with the notions of the self and the other in her work. She has had various solo exhibitions at *La Maison Rouge* (Paris), *FOAM* Museum (Amsterdam), *Marseille-Provence*, *French Photographic Society*, and the *Saint-Eustache* church. Her work also resides in many public and private collections, such as the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France*, *Musée de l'Élysée*, and *Pier 24 Photography*. In 2013, Solinas won the *Edouard Barbe* Prize. Solinas currently lives in Paris as a Professor of Photography at *Sciences Po Paris* and at *les Beaux-Arts* of Rouen and Le Havre (ESADHAR).



Annegret Soltau attended the Hochschule für Bildende Künste (University of Fine Arts) in Hamburg from 1967-72, where she studied painting and graphic arts under Hans Thiemann, Kurt Kranz, Rudolf Hausner and David Hockney. Considered fundamental for the development of experimental feminist art of the 1970s and 80s, Soltau has received much acclaim for her work. From 1989-90, she received a fellowship from the *Kunstfonds* (Art Foundation) in Bonn. In 2007, "Wack! Art and the Feminist Revolution," the first comprehensive exhibition on the foundations of feminist art by MOCA in Los Angeles included her work.



Grete Stern (1904-1999) worked as a freelance graphic design and advertising artist in her hometown until moving to Berlin in 1927, where she studied under Walter Peterhans. In 1928, she and Ellen Auerbach opened *ringl+pit*, a portraiture and advertising studio in Berlin. Stern and her husband Horacio Coppola fled Germany in 1933, living London until 1935, when she and Coppola moved to Buenos Aires. There, from 1937-1943 she and her husband operated a graphic design, photography, and advertising studio. In 1943 Stern opened her first one-woman exhibition, which comprised entirely of portraits. Stern created a photography workshop *Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes*, where she worked from 1956 until 1970. Stern worked Argentina until 1999.

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