

galleryluisotti 2525 Michigan Ave. number a2 Santa Monica California 90404
tel. 310 453 0043 fax 310 264 4888 info@galleryluisotti.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ron Jude: 12 Hz

August 25–November 17, 2018

Artist's Reception: Saturday, September 15, 2018, 6–8 pm

*We must unhumanize our views a little, and become confident
As the rock and ocean that we were made from.*

–Robinson Jeffers

Gallery Luisotti is pleased to present *Ron Jude: 12 Hz*. The title of the exhibition references the limits of human perception—12 Hz is the lowest sound threshold of human hearing. It suggests imperceptible forces, from plate tectonics to the ocean tides, from cycles of growth and decay in the forest, to the incomprehensibility of geological spans of time. The photographs in *12 Hz* allude to the ungraspable scale and veiled mechanics of these phenomena, while acknowledging a desire to gain a broader perspective, beyond the human enterprise, in a time of ecological and political crisis.

This first installation of *12 Hz* consists of six large-scale black and white images of lava tubes, tidal currents, river water and welded tuff formations: pictures describing the raw materials of the planet, those that make organic life possible. The photographs were made in the state of Oregon, from the high lava plains in the Deschutes National Forest to the gorges in the Cascade Range, and the sea caves and tide pools near Cape Perpetua on the Oregon coast.

Jude's new work affiliates him with the ethos of the Dark Mountain Project, a cultural movement that grew out of a manifesto written in 2009 by the English writers Paul Kingsnorth and Dougald Hine. Among the principal concerns of this movement is the urgent conviction that literature and art need to pivot away from "the myth of human centrality," and to "re-engage with the non-human world." In doing so, this work asks: how does one depict the indifference of the non-human world to our egocentrism and folly without simply offering false comfort by looking away from our reckless actions? Is it possible to engage the landscape in a meaningful way without resorting to formal trivialities, moralizing or personal narrative?

These photographs don't attempt to tell us how to live or what we've done wrong, nor do they reduce the landscape to something sentimental, tame and possessable. Rather, they endeavor to describe and reckon with forces in our physical world that operate independently of anthropocentric experience. The photographs in *12 Hz* work in service to a simple premise: that change is constant, whether we are able to perceive it or not.

Ron Jude, born in Los Angeles in 1965, lives and works in Eugene, Oregon, where he is a professor of art at the University of Oregon. His photographs, which often explore the nexus between place, memory and narrative, have been exhibited widely since 1992 at venues such as the J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles), The Photographers' Gallery (London), Dageu Cultural Center (Dageu, South Korea), Proekt_Fabrika (Moscow) and Museum of Contemporary Photography (Chicago). Jude is the co-founder of A-Jump Books and the author of ten books, including *Alpine Star* (A-Jump Books), *Other Nature* (The Ice Plant), *emmett* (The Ice Plant), *Lick Creek Line* (MACK) and *Lago* (MACK). This is Jude's fifth solo exhibition at Gallery Luisotti.