

# JACKSON FINE ART

## ATLANTA

Jackson Fine Art  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gail Albert Halaban  
*Neighbors in the Building*

Mary Ellen Bartley  
*Chromatic Fiction*

In the viewing room:  
Andrea Torres Balaguer

January 18 — March 22, 2024

Opening Reception  
Thursday, January 18, 5:30 – 7:30PM

Jackson Fine Art is pleased to open the new year in the expanded gallery space with exhibitions of work from **Gail Albert Halaban** and **Mary Ellen Bartley**, two photographers whose architectural compositions and thoughtful geometry belie the intimate worlds contained within.



Gail Albert Halaban, *Red Dress, Dorilton*, 2022

Gail Albert Halaban's *Out My Window* series, for which the artist collaborates with neighboring participants in cities across the world, developed as a means for the artist to facilitate communication among the inhabitants of urban neighborhoods — including her own. Working with both the residents of the space from which she shoots and the neighbors “out the window,” the group together composes a scene that resembles the lived experience — on both sides of the street. The series began in New York and has since been expanded to include Paris, Istanbul, Buenos Aires, and a number of cities in Italy. *Out My Window* has long straddled the distinction between fiction and fact in its exploration of the narratives that arise from multiple combined perspectives; with the new work in *Neighbors in the Building*, Halaban's third solo exhibition with Jackson Fine Art, the artist deepens this storytelling impulse by exhibiting photographs accompanied by recorded stories that her subjects make up about their neighbors. In this way, Halaban embraces the universal impulse to project fantasies on our neighbors, celebrating the community-building potential of investigating these projections.

*Chromatic Fiction*, Mary Ellen Bartley's painterly and abstract treatment of another vessel of narrative possibility, the printed book, will be on view at the gallery for the first time. Curated from four of the photographer's celebrated series — *Reading in Color*, *Reading Grey Gardens*, *Reading November*, and the brand new *Split Stacks* — the exhibition invites viewers to consider the quiet beauty of the material form that houses innumerable stories and ideas. Some works are more purely formal (*Reading in Color*, *Split Stacks*, *Reading November*), sculptural studies of candy-colored and worn paperbacks or moody and mysterious hardcovers reminiscent of Renaissance oils. Other series — like *Morandi's Books*, on view concurrently at the Museo Morandi, Bologna, Italy, or *Reading Grey Gardens* mine the intimate libraries of real people that fascinate or inspire Bartley for clues about their owners' secret lives. Like Halaban's window scenes, Bartley's photographs of the books left behind by Jacqueline Kennedy cousins “Big” and “Little” Edie Bouvier Beale invite viewers to weave together their own narratives about the volumes' storied histories.



Mary Ellen Bartley, *Pyramid*, 2022

Also on view will be a selection of works from Spanish photographer **Andrea Torres Balaguer**, whose self-portraits capture the artist in natural light, draped in provocative silks, lace, and velvets. Torres' execution of the composition creates a painterly portrait that triggers all of the senses - so rich in texture and possessing of brilliant, jewel-toned colors. Their air of mystery is pushed one step further with the unique brushstroke applied across the subject's face post-production, making each image slightly different from the others in its small edition. Once again, Balaguer provides a field for imaginative extrapolation.

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### Notes to Editors

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### About Gail Albert Halaban

Gail Albert Halaban is an American artist born in Washington, DC. Her interest in photography began when she made a pinhole camera for her first-grade science fair. Though her equipment has become more complex, her love of photography has never wavered. Her work plays with the notions of truth and fiction - straddling the line between documentary and staged. She attended the Rhode Island School of Design, Brown University, and Yale University, from which she received a Master of Fine Arts in Photography. She teaches at Columbia University in the Department of Narrative Medicine. She has been published widely including three monographs. Her work has been exhibited extensively in solo and group shows including a solo exhibit in 2018 at the George Eastman Museum in Rochester, New York. Public and private collections including the Hermes Foundation, George Eastman Museum, Yale University Art Gallery, Nelson Atkins Museum, Getty Museum, Cape Ann Museum, Wichita Art Museum, Minneapolis Institute of art hold her work. She has published three monographs: *Out My Window* (Powerhouse, 2012), *Vis à Vis* (Éditions de La Martinière 2014), *Italian Views* (Aperture, 2019). This is her third solo exhibition with Jackson Fine Art.



### About Mary Ellen Bartley

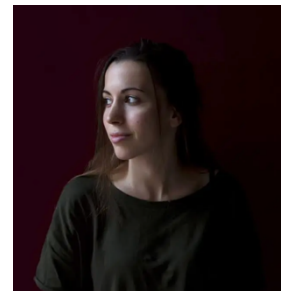


Mary Ellen Bartley is a photographer known for her quiet exploration of the printed book's potential for abstraction. Series like *Reading in Color*, *Paperbacks*, and *Reading November* celebrate the tenacity of an object that, rather than falling into obsolescence as expected, has somehow become more universally beloved in the public imagination since the digital age first threatened its extinction. In addition to her sculptural treatment of anonymous volumes, many of them nostalgically recalling the pulp paperbacks of our childhoods, Bartley has also turned her camera on notable libraries or collections. In 2015, she was an Artist in Residence at the Watermill Center, an artist lab created by experimental theater director and artist Robert Wilson; Bartley created a series of photographs and an installation drawing from Wilson's heavily-notated stacks. Bartley was born in New York, NY and received her BFA from Purchase College, SUNY. She lives and works in Sag Harbor, NY. Her work has been shown in a number of exhibitions and institutions including The Queens Museum, NY; The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; The Morgan Library and Museum, NY; Museo Morandi, Bologna, and the Parrish Art Museum, Watermill, NY. Her photographs and artist books are included

in the permanent collections of Center for Creative Photography, Tucson, AZ; J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA; MOMA, Library Special Collection, NY; Parrish Art Museum, Watermill, NY; The Morgan Library and Museum, NY and The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN among others.

### About Andrea Torres Balaguer

Andrea Torres Balaguer (b.1990) is a Spanish photographer whose passion for photography remains deeply rooted in her preoccupation with the mystery and ambiguity the medium oftentimes provides. Looking to masters like Duane Michals, Sally Mann and Annie Leibovitz, Torres has developed a distinct quality to her works that alludes to a dark and moody aesthetic while pushing the boundaries of portrait photography beyond its traditional limitations. Torres graduated from the University of Barcelona with a degree in Fine Arts. After winning her first award, *Artevistas New Talents*, her work has been exhibited in Barcelona, Madrid, Paris, New York, London, and Brussels, Berlin, Amsterdam, and Mexico. Her work is included in the private collections of Fundació Vila Casas, Col·lecció Bassat, and Universitat de Barcelona. Torres has been published in magazines such as *Elle France*, *Marie Claire* France and Italy, *AD Magazine*, *Nuevo Estilo*, *Fubiz*, *Lamono*, *Ignant magazine* and *Worbz*. In 2018 she was selected to take part in *Elles x Paris Photo* and has been recently been selected as one of the "top five artists to invest in" in Art Madrid 2019.



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### About Jackson Fine Art

Jackson Fine Art has a storied history which began in 1990 when Jane Jackson opened the gallery specializing in 20<sup>th</sup> century and contemporary photography. The gallery quickly became an important voice in the South as well as the international market. In March 2003, Ms. Jackson became the director of the prestigious Sir Elton John Photography Collection and sold the gallery to Anna Walker Skillman, her director of six years. Ms. Skillman, a loyal and active participant in the arts community for the last 25 years, graduated in Art History from the University of Georgia. She began her career working at the Haines Gallery, a leading contemporary art gallery in San Francisco and was directing Todd Murphy's studio in Atlanta before joining Jackson Fine Art in 1998.

In addition to 9-12 exhibitions annually, Jackson Fine Art participates in international art fairs including: Paris Photo; The Photography Show (AIPAD) in New York; Art Miami; and Intersect Aspen. The gallery is a member of the Association of International Photography Art Dealers (AIPAD), and Ms. Skillman is a former member of the board of directors.



*Photo credit: Rob Knight*

Jackson Fine Art has placed work in numerous important private and public collections such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art; High Museum of Art; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Art Institute of Chicago; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris; Des Moines Art Center; Telfairs Museums; Ham Museum of Art; Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City; Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA), San Diego; Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park; Montclair Art Museum, Montclair; Black Gold Museum, Riyadh; and Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; among others. Additionally, the gallery works with many corporate collections including Coca Cola Company; Delta Airlines; Microsoft; Target; Saks Fifth Avenue; Chanel; Banana Republic; Oppenheimer & Company; Capital One Corporate Collection; Citibank; Morgan Stanley Corporate Collection; Amall, Golden & Gregory; Loews Hotels; and Norwegian Cruise Lines.

Jackson Fine Art is now located at 3122 East Shadowlawn Ave. NE. Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10AM – 5PM.

More information:

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