



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tabitha Soren: *Relief*

On View: February 3rd - March 25th, 2023

Reception: February 10th, 6 - 8pm

Artist Talk / Book Signing: February 11th, 11:30 - 1pm



Laney Contemporary is pleased to present *Relief*, a solo exhibition of three of Tabitha Soren's most celebrated series — *Running* (2011 – 2014), *Surface Tension* (2013 – 2021), and *Relief*, an ongoing project. The exhibition was organized by Jackson Fine Art in Atlanta.

A visual artist in different domains for over twenty-five years, Soren has long explored the intersection of psychology, culture, politics, and the body. A former reporter for MTV News, ABC News, and NBC News, Soren begins each new series using the methodical investigative tools she used during her time in journalism. Books, research studies, and

statistics lay a necessary analytical foundation for the visual ideas she communicates. These data points then merge with her experiences growing up in a military family, spending her youth moving around the world and adjusting to cultural differences, social structures, and visual cues that came with each relocation. A through-line connects the three bodies of work, evoking the universal paranoia and contemplation of our historical moment. In *Running*, the earliest of the exhibited series, Soren photographs archetypal figures ambiguously captured in the act of arrival or flight, often in desolate urban landscapes. Though the series ended in 2014, their isolation recalls the quiet dread of the early days of the pandemic and presages an uncertain future.

For *Surface Tension*, which she began in 2014, Soren shines raking light on a dirty iPad screen, capturing and reimagining the found images underneath with her 8x10 film camera. The resulting body of work, titled with source file names and urls, investigates modern technological mediation, the collision of our human bodies with what Jia Tolentino calls in *The New Yorker* the “cold and infinite knowledge of the world.” *Surface Tension* has received widespread attention in the press and has been recently on view in multiple museum exhibitions internationally. A monograph (*Surface Tension*) was published by RVB Books in September of 2021.

Finally, *Relief* — returns to an interest in the overtly tactile, a reaction to the all-encompassing submersion into the digital that *Surface Tension* required of the artist (and viewer). Soren manipulates beautiful landscapes and formal portraits by cutting, bending, burning, blasting, or shooting the paper they are printed on, removing the screen as interlocutor between hand and image and closing the circle that began with *Running* by similarly suggesting a future that might closely resemble the past.

Bio:

Soren was born in 1967 in San Antonio, Texas and lived in 7 U.S. states, Germany, and the Philippines during her formative and adolescent years. She received her degree in 1989 from New York University and was awarded a fellowship from Stanford University in 1997. Solo exhibitions of her work have been organized at Mills College Art Museum, Oakland, CA; Transformer Station, Cleveland, OH; The Davis Museum, Wellesley, MA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Indianapolis, IN; Oakland Museum of California, and others. Select group exhibitions include Pier 24 Photography, San Francisco, CA; The Worcester Art Museum, MA; Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA; Aperture Gallery, New York, NY; Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, CA; Dorsky Gallery, New York, NY; Amarillo Museum of Art, Amarillo, TX; Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN; The Photographer’s Gallery, London, UK; the New Orleans Museum of Art, LA; and the Ogden Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA.

Soren’s work is in many private and public collections including the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; The Cleveland Museum of Art, OH; The New Orleans Museum of Art, LA; Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA; the Oakland Museum of California; The George Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY; The Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, CA; Pier 24 Photography, San Francisco, CA; and The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA. Her images have been featured in *Hyperallergic*, the *Washington Post*, *California Sunday Magazine*, *ArtNews*, *Newsweek*, and the *Guardian*,

and publications include *Fantasy Life* (Aperture), *Trace* (Yoffy Press) and *Surface Tension* (RVB Books). She currently lives and works in San Francisco, California.

Reception details:

Tabitha Soren's solo exhibition, *Relief*, opens in conjunction with Christy Bush's solo exhibition, *Familiar*. The reception will take place on Friday, February 10th from 6 to 8pm with a food truck on premises.

Artist talk / book signing:

An artist talk and book signing with Tabitha Soren and Christy Bush will take place on Saturday, February 11th from 11:30 to 1pm. *Familiar*, a new monograph from Christy Bush and Tabitha Soren's *Surface Tension* will be available for purchase. Limited copies are available; please contact the gallery to reserve your copy. The gallery opens at 11 to view the exhibitions and enjoy refreshments; the artist talk begins at 11:30 followed by the book signing.

Tabitha Soren: *Surface Tension*

Surface Tension isolates one of the most intimate layers of our daily experience: the place where our warm animal bodies, our simplest instincts, collide with the cold and infinite knowledge of the technological world. -Jia Tolentino

Christy Bush: *Familiar*

Celebrating thirty years of photographs — rock 'n' roll, fashion and coming of age in the South — this beautifully edited book features a foreword by Bush's longtime friend, artist and musician Michael Stipe, and compiles some of the artist's most compelling work to date. Bush will discuss her work and process, and books will be available for sale and signing.

Gallery hours and contact information:

Tuesday - Friday, 11-5 pm

Saturday, 11-2 pm

and by appointment

Phone: (912) 438-4442

Address: 1810 Mills B. Lane Blvd, Savannah, GA 31405

For more information, interviews, and to request high resolution images, please contact info@laneycontemporary.com

Image above:

St. Helena, 2019

Archival pigment print with unique paper cuts

Unique Edition of 7

22 x 22 inches