

4 December, 1997 thru 17 January, 1998

JOHN BRILL

“e n n u i”

For Immediate Release

Kent Gallery is pleased to present “ennui”, an exhibition of recent toned silverprints by John Brill. These hand-articulated prints were completed between 1994 and 1997, although the in-camera sources for many may date as far back as the 1960s. The images comprising this series have been subjected to a variety of methodological interventions, or have otherwise evolved over the course of successive manipulations to a point where they no longer relate in any material way to the sources from which they derive, having taken on a life of their own as part of the present series.

In a review of Brill’s 1990 exhibition entitled “ Family Holiday Album” in New York, A.D. Coleman wrote:

So strong is our belief in the photograph as
Evidence of the actual that, even in the face of
Images as stripped of specifics as these, we
Search for clues to their original subjects...
The True subject of Mr. Brill’s work is photography itself:
What the medium does and what we assume about it.

As stated by the artist, “ennui” continues and takes to the extreme my exploration of the subjective and equivocal nature of meaning in the photographic image. Eschewing and ultimately freed from the representational and narrative functions presumed to inhere in photographs generally, these minimal scapes exists outside of the photograph.”

Brill received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physiological psychology from Colgate University in 1973, and is self-taught as a photographer. He worked on an extended series of photographic self-portraits from 1981 to 1987 followed by the “Family Holiday Album” series, and the “engrams” series shown at Kent in 1995.

Originally exhibited at Kent Gallery, 67 Prince Street, New York, NY 10012.