

CLIFFORD ROSS

the limbs of the ash tree recalled
the wave as the breeze lifted it
- W. S. MERWIN



Hurricane LXXVIII, 2010, archival pigment print, 48 x 82 in



Gate I, 2007, archival pigment print
38 1/2 x 27 1/2 in

Opening August 5th and on view through August 30th, The Drawing Room in East Hampton is pleased to present two recent bodies of black and white photographs by Clifford Ross, a long time resident of East Hampton. An ethereal sequence of views through a grove of trees at the edge of a lake and against the night sky are cropped from passages in large negatives Ross made with his patented R1 camera which achieves the highest resolution large scale landscapes in the world. Printing the negative image of the leaning trees and their lacy foliage as a positive, Ross's contemporary methods harken back to the 19th century photograms of ferns by Anna Atkins and paper negatives of lace by Fox Talbot. Ross also presents a spectacular new sequence of archival pigment prints of hurricane waves which silence the crash and roar of the ocean's most powerful roiling forms so familiar here on the East End.

In awe of the ocean since his childhood growing up at Georgica beach, Ross returns to water in its most dramatic moments and revels in each opportunity to stand up and "capture" the waves which knocked him over as a boy. Having long explored the digital imagery capture technologies, Ross's research and practice have allowed him to mine the 21st century advances of the 19th century medium, preserving the best qualities of both. To create the Hurricane photographs, he stands waist high in the hurricane waves in a wet suit, tethered to friends on the beach. Indeed, with each closing of his shutter Ross freezes details, invisible to the naked eye, of the liquid motions and stunning shapes of the violent water. Spanning 40 or 84 inches wide these new wave images evoke palpable memories. The contrast of realities between the perfect stillness of the image and the wild frenzy of the writhing subject is thrilling.

(over)

Whether printed on translucent Japanese paper, photo paper or blonde wood veneer, each of Ross's black and white photographs expresses a specific, pristine experience of nature. Subtle tonalities of white leaves on leaning birches are mirrored in still water while in the next room, hurricane breakers explode with the ecstatic spray of sea foam. Ross takes us to the foot of the crashing wave and to the secret gate in the vast landscape.

Clifford Ross has exhibited widely in Europe and America and his work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, among others. In 2009, a ten year survey of his photographic work was exhibited at the Austin Museum of Art, and an exhibition of his "Mountain" and "Hurricane" series opened at the MADRE/Museo Archeologico in Naples, Italy. His work was also shown at Robilant + Voena galleries, London and Milan, and Sonnabend Gallery, New York.

Hours: Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 11–5, Sunday 11-4.

For further information and reproductions, please contact Kristin Miller at 631.324.5016 or info@drawingroom-gallery.com.