

# LETHA WILSON

## HORIZON EYES

Mar 18 – Apr 22, 2018  
GRIMM 202 Bowery NY

Opening: Sunday Mar 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm

GRIMM is pleased to announce *Horizon Eyes*, a solo exhibition of new works by Letha Wilson, on view at our New York gallery space. This marks the artist's second solo exhibition with GRIMM, showcasing a selection of new sculptural works that combine landscape photographs with industrial materials like aluminum, zinc, concrete and steel.

Throughout her career, Letha Wilson has expanded boundaries between photography and sculpture by questioning how a photograph can be physically engaged. Wilson trades the traditional confines of a photographic image by merging them with monumental materials that complicate the duality between the natural landscape and our industrial, synthetic society. Using landscape photography as a source, Wilson's balance of material and image speaks to our relationship with the landscape, using both intimate and vast details of nature as subject.

Our relationship to the scale of the work often refers to the landscape as subject, whether we are confronted with a 10-foot photograph of Bryce Canyon, UT (US) printed on steel, or *Headlands Beach Steel Pipe Bend* that presents the fleeting moment of a sunset as a soft, malleable form, bearing the weight of the steel pipe. In a work spanning 14 feet wide, a color field-like sunset in northeast Nevada is folded as an accordion, mimicking the panoramic experience of looking at something that can never be viewed entirely at once. Concrete works themselves are a journey in chemical manipulation, where the emulsion from traditional C-print photographs are cured into the face of the concrete, abstracted and repeated onto themselves.

Proposing a new physical presence that has a life of its own beyond the original photograph, the work is as much about its own material as the image that it was born from. The works in *Horizon Eyes* contain photographs from sites Wilson has traveled to, including the Western United States, Hawaii, and Iceland. Images taken on site are later manipulated in her studio, amalgamated with industrial materials like zinc, aluminum, and steel that aim to pull something out of the images. These materials are exposed, revealing architectural qualities that interrogate interior and exterior spaces.

Color and form are explored in works that are folded, bent, torn and cut, alluding to Wilson's control of material and space; their final textures referring back to natural terrains. Through these gestures, Wilson creates abstract works that speak to our complex relationship with the natural world.



Letha Wilson | *Steel Face Concrete Bend (Bryce Canyon)* | 2017

### About the artist

Letha Wilson was born in 1976 in Honolulu, HI (US) and raised in Greeley, CO (US). She currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY (US). She earned her BFA from Syracuse University, NY (US) in 1998, and an MFA from Hunter College, NY (US) in 2003. Residencies include Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Madison, ME (US), The Yaddo Foundation, NY (US), Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha, NE (US), and Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, CA (US). Recent solo exhibitions were organized by the Center for Contemporary Art and Culture, PNCA, PO (US) and the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA (US) in 2017, *Surface Moves*, Galerie Christophe Gaillard, Paris (FR) in 2016 and GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL) in 2015. Wilson has participated in group exhibitions at MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA (US), MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome (IT), Essl Museum, Klosterneuburg (AT), Bemis Center for Contemporary Art in Omaha, NE (US), Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY (US), Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City, NY (US), Exit Art, NY (US), and the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT (US).

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