

DENK

PHIL GRIFFIN *SOLO PROJECT*

EXHIBITION DATES:

FEBRUARY 10 - MARCH 17, 2018

RECEPTION: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018 6-8 PM



(Los Angeles, CA) - DENK gallery is pleased to announce *Solo Project*, a presentation of photographic works by German-born British artist Phil Griffin. The exhibition will feature a selection of images drawn from the artist's more extensive body of work entitled *Surrender*. Trained as a dancer, Griffin's visual interests reside in the dynamic and primal energy of movement. He explores themes of submission and acquiescence as expressed physically in the active and ecstatic thralls of dance. These moments of individual relent and abandon offer a vulnerability through which Griffin feels the true inner self is revealed. Captured in images that convey the struggle, exhaustion, and ecstasy of motion and physical release, the body becomes a vessel through which the intangible and unseen is accessed.

Invited by Jan Fabre, multidisciplinary artist and choreographer, to document his *Mount Olympus* project with the Troubleyn theater company, now under his direction, Griffin returns to the theater where he had performed some 30 years ago as a dancer. The full *Surrender* series in-

DENK

cludes 40 images and a feature-length documentary capturing the performers in varying states of stillness and action.

The photographs, bordering at times on the abstract, often convey the frenetic flutter of the body reduced to only an immaterial energy gliding across film, and offer momentary impressions rather than finite forms. This kinetic quality produces an ambiguous image charged with instability and latent impermanence, one that is both painterly and gestural rather than still or confined.

Image credits: Phil Griffin, *The Personal Cruelty of Gustav*, 2016. Archival Pigment Print, 29 x 29 in.

ABOUT PHIL GRIFFIN

Born in Germany in 1964, Phil Griffin graduated from Ballet Rambert in London as a dancer and choreographer. He continued on to be a foremost dancer in the experimental Troubleyn Theatre Laboratorium in Belgium. Following a lauded career as a creative director at the BBC, Griffin had his first solo exhibition in 2016 at At The Gallery, Antwerp (BE).

ABOUT DENK GALLERY

Founded in January of 2017, DENK is a newly established gallery in Downtown Los Angeles' thriving arts district. Its founding mission is to present a diverse program of local and international contemporary artists working across a variety of mediums, including sculpture, installation, painting, photography, works on paper, and interdisciplinary media. The gallery's goal is to curate engaging exhibitions by artists who are creating relevant, substantive, experimental, or timely work. By providing an adaptable venue that will allow artists to develop their concepts and have them realized, DENK hopes to foster a generative curatorial space.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT GALLERY DIRECTOR CARL BERG AT
CARL@DENKGALLERY.COM**

###