

Transformer Station Opens 2017 with Esther Teichmann's Multimedia Exhibition 'Heavy the Sea'

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- Installation View, from *Heavy the Sea*, 4x3 m painted backdrop, UV print painted with inks and acrylics, 125x165 cm Chromogenic print and 50x60cm toned fibre silver gelatin print

Kicking off 2017 with a bang, Transformer Station will host the first public individual exhibition of work by London-based artist Esther Teichmann. A large-scale, multimedia exhibition, *Heavy the Sea* explores the relationship between desire, loss and the imaginary through narratives of longing in large scale still and moving images, painting and sculpture. Teichmann was raised in southern Germany and earned an MA and PhD in Fine Art from the Royal College of Art.

"It's incredibly exciting and unusual to be given the support, freedom and dialogue to create an exhibition without restraints, exactly as one imagines the work to be seen and encountered," Teichmann says. "The Bidwells have created a unique space which supports artists in showing their work in a way that allows risk taking and experimentation in a collaborative and formative way."

Divided by the physical layout of Transformer Station's two exhibition spaces, *Heavy the Sea* includes large-scale still and moving imagery, cyanotypes, layered photographs, paintings and three-dimensional sculpture. In the main gallery, several large format photographs hang juxtaposed alongside ink-soaked, photographic tapestries of caves and dense swamps next to one-of-a-kind cyanotype portraits of seaweed "creatures," while a freestanding boat with cloud sails sits in the center of the space.

Meanwhile, Transformer Station's smaller crane gallery features three looping films, created separately, but seemingly in dialogue with each other. Through neighboring projections, figures appear to move toward one another, yet never meet. Teichmann worked with international composer Deidre Gribbin to create an original composition to accompany the films and flood the room with sound. Teichmann's film "Fulmine" will come to life with live performances of Gribbin's composition by local string quartet OPUS 216 during this weekend's opening reception, as well as in intervals between 2 to 4 p.m. on March 4 and April 29.

Heavy the Sea opens this Saturday, Jan. 14, with a members-only preview from 5 to 7 p.m., followed by a public reception from 7 to 9 p.m., featuring a live performance by OPUS 216. *Heavy the Sea* remains on view through April 30 during regular gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday and open until 8 p.m. on Thursday. Additionally, in honor of this first US exhibition, Transformer Station has published a free, limited edition book of both images from the exhibition, as well as short stories by the artist and poems written in response to the work by art historian and writer Carol Mayor. Later this year, a book of Teichmann's essays will be published by Stanley/Barker.