

Richard Learoyd

Courtesy of Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Richard Learoyd's color images are made with one of the most antiquarian of photographic processes: the camera obscura. Literally translated from Latin as "dark room," Learoyd has created a room-sized camera in which the photographic paper is exposed. The subject—often a person, sometimes a still life—is in the adjacent room, separated by a lens. Light falling on the subject is directly focused onto the photographic paper without an interposing film negative. The result is an entirely grainless image. The overall sense of these larger-than-life images redefines the photographic illusion. Learoyd's subjects, composed simply and directly, are described with the thinnest plane of focus, re-creating and exaggerating the way that the human eye perceives, and not without a small acknowledgement to Dutch Master painting.

In the fall of 2015, Aperture released *Richard Learoyd: Day for Night*, a comprehensive book of color portraits and studio work., and concurrently, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London mounted *Dark Mirror*, an exhibition of his large-scale portrait and still-life photographs. The J. Paul Getty Museum will present a solo exhibition of Learoyd's work in 2016.

His work is included in the collections of The Getty, Tate, Victoria & Albert Museum, Centre Pompidou, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Nelson-Atkins Museum, National Gallery of Canada, and Yale University Art Gallery, among others.



Carla Nude

2010

Camera obscura Ilfochrome photograph

68 x 48 inches (image) 80-1/2 x 60 inches (framed)

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