

Jackson Fine Art  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 21, 2023

Cooper & Gorfer  
*When We Are Giant*

Press Preview  
Friday, March 24, 4:30-5:30PM

Sheila Pree Bright  
*The Rebirth of Us*

Opening Reception  
Friday, March 24, 7-9PM

*In the viewing room:*  
Francesca Woodman & George Lange

Meet the Artists + Book Signing  
Saturday, March 25, 11AM

March 24 – May 26, 2023

Jackson Fine Art announces its move to a new, custom-built 4,000 square-foot gallery. Launching on March 24, 2023, the new space will be located at 3122 East Shadowlawn Avenue, directly across the street from the gallery's previous location. Designed and built by Atlanta-based firm Siegel Construction & Design, the new gallery retains the intimate and domestic ambiance of the former gallery, now with expanded exhibition, office, inventory, library, and meeting spaces to keep pace with the evolution of contemporary photography and offer an enhanced experience for artists and collectors.

The opening commences a weekend of events around inaugural exhibitions of work by Cooper & Gorfer, Sheila Pree Bright, and Francesca Woodman – each of whom represent characteristics that distinguish Jackson Fine Art. This will be the first U.S. gallery exhibition for Stockholm-based artist duo Cooper & Gorfer, highlighting the gallery's tradition of recognizing cutting-edge talent on a global scale and exhibiting those creators with Jackson Fine Art and beyond. Celebrated Atlanta-based photographer Sheila Pree Bright reasserts the gallery's commitment to showcasing local artists who are essential to the history of photography in the South, while providing a platform for those who are redefining the medium of photography in the city. Portraits of and by Francesca Woodman and George Lange feature the foundational work of 20th century artists who have always grounded Jackson Fine Art. Collectively, these exhibitions honor the relationships with artists, collectors, art professionals, and the public who have contributed to Jackson Fine Art's success over the past 33 years.

Sweden-based artist duo Sarah Cooper and Nina Gorfer create portraits of women in immersive worlds with socio-political undertones in *When We Are Giant*, a series of works that blurs the lines between painting, collage, and photography. Colossal female figures explode from their frames, challenging perceived notions of femininity by asserting the right of the female body to occupy space, both figuratively and literally. With a point of departure in photography, their work ranges from physically layered collages with painted and embroidered materials, to photographs of disassembled images in different states of ephemeral montage. Like art history's Mannerists and Surrealists, Cooper & Gorfer strain observable reality through a filter of memories, moods, and wounds. Supporting this ground-breaking new body of work

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are works from two earlier series: *I Know These Not My Hands* (2011–2017) and *Between These Folded Walls, Utopia* (2017–2020).

Sheila Pree Bright returns to the gallery for her second exhibition debuting *The Rebirth of Us*, a selection of large scale silver gelatin prints from three new series distilling the tensions of her earlier depictions of racial and political conflict to their transhistorical roots. First commissioned by the High Museum in 2021 as a continuation of its *Picturing the South* projects, *Invisible Empire* captures images of Stone Mountain’s infamous bas-relief and its surrounding landscape. Bright intentionally mimics these clashing interests, beginning at the level of aesthetics: “the photographs are shiny and black and white, and I wanted them to look beautiful enough to engage you, to draw you in, and then hit you with the real message.” Works from *Behold the Land*, revisiting Bright’s interest in Du Bois’ interrogation of the South and on view for the first time at Jackson Fine Art, further bolster the artist’s interest in investigating sites of generational trauma and transmuting them into a potential future rooted in joy. Bright borrows the series’ title from W.E.B. Du Bois’s 1924 meditation on the conflict between Georgia’s rarely acknowledged natural beauty and the darkness and violence that dominate its perception in the American psyche.

In the viewing Room, the gallery features portraits by and of Francesca Woodman from the collection of George Lange, a classmate and close friend of Woodman’s at Rhode Island School of Design from 1975–1978. This selection depicts Woodman’s creative and personal coming-of-age during those formative years. As friends and classmates, Lange and Woodman photographed each other and often gifted and exchanged prints. After Woodman committed suicide in 1981, Lange saved in a box photographs Woodman had given him during the time they were classmates, not to be displayed for 30 years out of affection for his friend and respect for her memory. In 2017, with the blessing of Francesca’s mother Betty, Lange worked with the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver to mount the exhibition *Francesca Woodman: Portrait of a Reputation*, an exploration of the artist’s formative years. The exhibition reflects her ideas of self-portraiture, performance, representation, and exploration of sexuality and the body. Jackson Fine Art is honored to be able to exhibit this body of work in collaboration with Danziger Gallery, New York.

### **Notes to Editors**

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### **About Cooper & Gorfer**

Sarah Cooper (b.1974, Germany) and Nina Gorfer (b.1979, Austria) have been collaborating since 2006 and work between Gothenburg, Sweden and Berlin, Germany. A major institutional exhibition of their work opened in March 2020 to inaugurate the Fotografiska Museum in New York. Additional selected recent exhibitions include *The Weather Diaries*, Estonian Museum of Applied Art and Design, Estonia (2020); *Interruptions and The Weather Diaries*, Rosphoto, St Petersburg, Russia (2018); *Interruptions*, Árran, Lulesamisk Senter, Drag, Norway (2018); *A Queen Within*, NOMA New Orleans Museum of Art, USA (2018); *I Know Not These My Hands/Interruptions*, Strandverket Konsthall, Marstrand, Sweden (2018); *The Weather Diaries*, American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, USA (2017); *I Know Not These My Hands*, Fotografiska, Stockholm, Sweden (2017); *The Weather Diaries*, Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, USA, Danish Cultural Center, Beijing, China (2016); *The Weather Diaries*, National Museum of Photography, Copenhagen, Denmark (2014). In 2018, Cooper & Gorfer were the winners of the prestigious German Photo Book award for their monograph *I Know Not These My Hands*.

### **About Sheila Pree Bright**

Sheila Pree Bright (b. 1967, Waycross, GA) is an award-winning fine art photographer based in Atlanta, Georgia. Her photographs hang in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC, the High Museum of Art, and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, the de Saisset Museum in Santa Clara, California, and many others. Her portrait of politician and voting activist Stacey Abrams is currently featured in Spelman College Museum of Fine Art's group exhibition *Black American Portraits*, on view in Atlanta from February 10 to June 30, 2023.

### **About Francesca Woodman**

Woodman (b. 1958, Denver, CO) was the daughter of artists George and Betty Woodman. She attended a private boarding school, and it was there where she began developing her interest in photography. Woodman spent summers with her family in Italy, and in 1975, Woodman began attending the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, RI. Two years later, she traveled to Rome as part of a RISD honors program, which proved to be one of the most prolific periods in her life. She returned to America in 1978 and graduated from RISD, after which she moved to New York to pursue a career in photography the following year. Despite her short career, which ended with her suicide at the age of 22, Woodman produced over 800 prints during her life. Since her death, she has been exhibited in solo shows at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA). Her work is also included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA); Tate; Whitney Museum of American Art; Louisiana Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA); MCA Chicago; and Moderna Museet, Stockholm, among others.

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### **About Jackson Fine Art**

Jackson Fine Art has a storied history which began in 1990 when Jane Jackson opened the gallery specializing in 20<sup>th</sup> century and contemporary photography. The gallery quickly became an important voice in the South as well as the international market. In March 2003, Ms. Jackson became the director of the prestigious Sir Elton John Photography Collection and sold the gallery to Anna Walker Skillman, her director of six years. Ms. Skillman, a loyal and active

participant in the arts community for the last 25 years, graduated in Art History from the University of Georgia. She began her career working at the Haines Gallery, a leading contemporary art gallery in San Francisco and was directing Todd Murphy's studio in Atlanta before joining Jackson Fine Art in 1998.

In addition to 9-12 exhibitions annually, Jackson Fine Art participates in international art fairs including: Paris Photo; The Photography Show (AIPAD) in New York; Art Miami; and Intersect Aspen. The gallery is a member of the Association of International Photography Art Dealers (AIPAD), and Ms. Skillman is a former member of the board of directors.

Jackson Fine Art has placed work in numerous important private and public collections such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art; High Museum of Art; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Art Institute of Chicago; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris; Des Moines Art Center; Telfairs Museums; Harn Museum of Art; Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City; Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA), San Diego; Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park; Montclair Art Museum, Montclair; Black Gold Museum, Riyadh; and Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; among others. Additionally, the gallery works with many corporate collections including Coca Cola Company; Delta Airlines; Microsoft; Target; Saks Fifth Avenue; Chanel; Banana Republic; Oppenheimer & Company; Capital One Corporate Collection; Citibank; Morgan Stanley Corporate Collection; Arnall, Golden & Gregory; Loews Hotels; and Norwegian Cruise Lines.

Jackson Fine Art is now located at 3122 East Shadowlawn Ave. NE. Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10AM – 5PM.

More information:

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