

## Simon Roberts

### *THE LAST MOMENT*

Exhibition January 22 – March 7, 2015

Heinzer Reszler Gallery is pleased to present the second solo exhibition of British photographer Simon Roberts, entitled *The Last Moment* (2014).

Simon Roberts is known for his work combining landscapes, notions of identity and belonging. His large format photographs are taken with great technical precision, often from elevated positions. The distanced vantage point allows the relationship of individual bodies and groups to the landscape to be clearly observed, and echoes the visual language of history painting. He has developed series including *We English* (2008), *The Election Project* (2010) and *The Social: Landscapes of Leisure* (2013), all with their own visual language, which could also be described as anthropological studies.

For *The Last Moment*, Roberts has moved away from his trademark visual position without altering the meaning and context of his previous studies. His interest in the social rituals of his contemporaries in this series offers a new mode of expression. The explosion in the number of photographers, or citizen journalists, corollary to the introduction of cameras in our phones, as well as the need to document our lives through social networks, has encouraged Roberts to explore this new social, technological and psychological phenomenon.

Always using the same procedure, Roberts scans selected images from newspaper print depicting historical moments, media events and gathered crowds. The act of scanning the entire surface of the printed newspaper is a physical gesture and is followed by an act of mark making: every occasion in which someone is using a camera, whether a pocket-sized phone camera or professional digital SLR, is noted and then circled. The background image is made translucent creating a ghostly veneer patterned by different constellations of artificial disembodied 'eyes'; a metaphor for the various ways cameras function and are used in today's global societies.

The title *The Last Moment* makes reference to the capturing of treasured memories once referred to as 'The Kodak Moment', and the recent demise of the American camera manufacturer which became synonymous with the development of amateur photography.

Simon Roberts (1974), English photographer based in Brighton UK, who graduated in cultural geography from the University of Sheffield (1996). His photographs have been the subject of numerous solo and group exhibitions at institutions such as the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome. He has won several awards including the Vic Odden Award and was commissioned as the British 'Election Artist' by the UK Parliament in 2010. His work is included in major public and private collections including the George Eastman House and Deutsche Börse Art Collection.