

LOIS LAMBERT GALLERY **ROBERT STIVERS**

at Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave E3
Santa Monica, CA 90404
loislambertgallery.com

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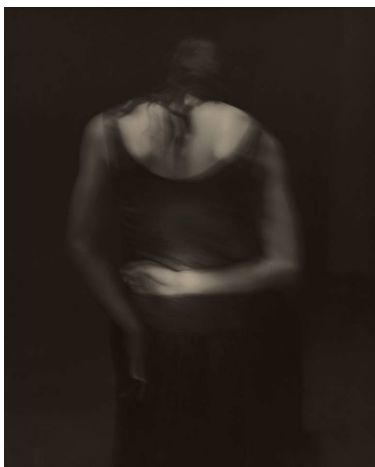
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ROBERT STIVERS, *The Dancer*,
photograph, unique gelatin silver print



ROBERT STIVERS, *Portrait of S*,
photograph, unique gelatin silver print



ROBERT STIVERS, *The Black Dress*,
photograph, unique gelatin silver print

Sanctuary

February 18, 2023 – May 13, 2023

Opening Reception Saturday, February 18, 5-8pm

SANTA MONICA, CA - Lois Lambert Gallery presents *Sanctuary* the most recent exhibition of work by photographer Robert Stivers.

Robert Stivers is an American photographer, who works with film to develop handmade, one-of-a-kind photographs. Stivers' work is characterized by his dark room technique, in which he allows rough edges, discolorations, layered negatives, and other "planned accidents" to add to the image itself. By experimenting with these different effects, many of Stivers' works are left shrouded with haze, purposefully taking something sharp and making it out of focus, as a way to force the viewer to re-evaluate the image.

Stivers uses photography as way to explore his personal experiences and his deepest thoughts, viewing each photograph as a kind of self-portrait. The images he chooses represent some aspect of Stivers' sense of self, whether that's his love of dance, his thoughts on grief, his distant dreams, or his deepest fears. The exact meaning behind each image is intentionally left obscure so that the viewer might discover a glimpse of their own thoughts and experiences in the work. For Stivers, these haunting photographs communicate his experience of life, death, hope, despair, mortality, existence, the sacred, the profane, and everything in between.

Robert Stivers received his B.A. at the University of California, Irvine (1975), his M.A. at New York University (1981), and has exhibited internationally since the early 1990s. He has five published monographs, starting with the eponymous Robert Stivers: Photographs (1997) and continuing on with *Listening to Cement* (2000), *Sestina* (2003), *Sanctum* (2006), and *The Art of Ruin* (2015). His work is in major collections such as the Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris, France), the Getty Museum (Los Angeles, CA), Brooklyn Museum of Art (Brooklyn, NY), The Huntington Library (San Marino, CA), J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles, CA), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, NY), Museum Ludwig (Cologne, Germany), and the Victoria and Albert Museum (London, United Kingdom). and Albert Museum (London, UK), among others.