

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Mikayla Whitmore

Magic Circle

March 29 – May 4, 2019

Opening Reception: Friday, March 29th, 6 - 8 pm

Free and open to the public



Mikayla Whitmore, *To All That's Dead and Gone*, 2019,
archival metallic print, 40 x 60 in. (101.6 x 152.4 cm)

In conjunction with Denver's Month of Photography, David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to present *Magic Circle*, a solo exhibition by Las Vegas-based photographer Mikayla Whitmore.

Presented in the gallery's project room, *Magic Circle* taps into the lore of Western landscapes mingled with the art historical symbolism of the mirror and the shape of the circle. Through her use of light and reflection Whitmore alludes to the mirage, the storied symbol of salvation, particularly when one is lost in the desert. An illusion caused by atmospheric conditions, the mirage has the power to affect one's reality. It is in this space between harsh truth and mistaken interpretation that Whitmore culls substance for *Magic Circle*.

Having grown up in Las Vegas, Whitmore is no stranger to the howling, dry winds and solitude of the Nevada desert landscape. As she describes, "being alone in the desert you start to hear and be aware of everything... It's as almost for a moment, you can see a shift in time." Camera in hand, in the same deserts where Hollywood's sci-fi monsters came to life and where generations of secrets were buried and forgotten, the West is decidedly reclaimed in *Magic Circle*. Functioning as both a tool of inward reflection and vehicle for story-telling, Whitmore's carefully placed mirrors echo untold narratives hidden in the desert sands.

About Mikayla Whitmore

Mikayla Whitmore's main interest focuses on photography and installation – in particular, the overlap between both fields, specifically the phantom surrealism of the photographic image to explore the elusiveness of place, self-awareness, and memory. Her work explores the potential of the photographic medium and deconstructing the built-up facades she encounters in daily life. Selected exhibitions include Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art (NV), Torrance Art Museum (CA), and Humble Arts Foundation (NY). Whitmore lives in Las Vegas, Nevada.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

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