

Brancusi: The Photographer

293 TENTH AVENUE

MAY 16 – JUNE 29, 2019



“Photography is the form in which Brancusi speaks about his sculpture.”—Friedrich Teja Bach

Kasmin is pleased to announce *Brancusi: The Photographer*, organized in collaboration with Bruce Silverstein Gallery. The exhibition will be on view at 293 Tenth Avenue between May 16 - June 28, 2019, presented concurrently with Brancusi’s *Flowers* at Bruce Silverstein Gallery, on view at 529 West 20th Street.

Brancusi: The Photographer brings together 25 rare vintage gelatin silver prints spanning two decades that illuminate the significance of photography in the artist’s oeuvre. In 1921, Brancusi began to committedly pursue photography, influenced by his friendship with Man Ray, whose guidance on the technical elements of medium and mastery of the darkroom strengthened Brancusi’s command of the practice. This collaborative dialogue between the two artists led to numerous technical and artistic innovations within and beyond the photographic medium.

Aside from their inherent indexical nature, Brancusi's photographs reinforce the artist's intentions for his sculptures. Taken in the intimate, atmospheric environment of his carefully orchestrated studio design at the Impasse Ronsin in Paris, many of the works in the exhibition depict assemblages comprised of Brancusi's most celebrated sculptures, found objects and material fragments. They demonstrate the artist's investment not only in the sculptures as individual entities but also in their relationship to one another in the context of a synthesized tableau. These 'group mobiles' create narrative juxtapositions amongst the rooms' dramatic pitches of light and shadow, allowing Brancusi to emphasize salient elements of his work and recontextualize their forms.

An indelible, recurring subject in Brancusi's photographs is his magnum opus, the *Colonne sans fin (Endless Column)*. Different iterations of the sculpture are photographed while installed in Brancusi's studio, at Târgu Jiu in Romania, and in Edward Steichen's garden at Voulangis in France. Often positioning the camera at the base of the sculpture looking up, Brancusi's photographic works on *Endless Column* accentuate the sublime nature of the sculpture while also documenting the site-specificity of its myriad installations.

Image: Constantin Brancusi, *Vue de l'atelier (View of the Studio)*, ca. 1925, gelatin silver print, 15 1/2 x 11 inches, 39.4 x 27.9 cm. © 2019 Succession Brancusi, all rights reserved/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris.

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