

Empire - curated by Jed Moch

Artists

Sarah Charlesworth
Sam Lipp
Richard Prince
Nicholas Sullivan
Valentina Vaccarella

Dates January 23 - February 28, 2026
Opening January 23, 6-8 pm
Location 136 Baxter Street New York, NY 10013

Empire is a residue.

Empire accrues in layers. The monumental and the disposable, the intimate and the broadcast, the mythic and the transactional. The exhibition sifts through familiarity. To look is to participate. To look again is to notice the seams.

Exposing the threads that bind, the works lay bare and borrowed. Images with powers that do not declare but circulate. *Empire* settles in long after authority withdraws, lingering quietly intact. What remains is not control, but trace.

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Empire revisits the groundwork laid by the Pictures Generation, using appropriation as a way to critique image distribution and identity construction in mass media. Charlesworth and Prince represent divergent approaches – the former, presenting a ‘Modern History’ newsprint series as well as a standalone work from her ‘In Photography’ series, foregrounding distortion and manipulation while Prince removes the image from its original context and re-renders a new mediation with a characteristically dystopic twist. The three emerging artists on view – Nicholas Sullivan, Valentina Vaccarella and Sam Lipp – metabolize the themes mined by the Pictures Generation and present new visions of image culture’s enduring grip.