

HUNGER

MATT LIPPS: In Focus - Matt Lipps – Special Problems

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In Matt Lipps' second exhibition with Josh Lilley Gallery he presents a new series of photographic works. Lipps is known for juxtaposing images to explore categorisation within cultures. Through building 3D stage sets, Lipps re-organises and collages icons from social history. In his latest exhibition Lipps develops this process by cutting out nearly 500 figures whilst acknowledging and paying tribute to analogue photography. Lipps new series 'Library' takes its inspiration and starting point from a 17-volume book set entitled the 'Library of Photography' published between 1970 and 1972 by Time-Life Books. Each volume intended to deliver a manual on photography, covering everything from techniques and genres to conservation. Each book is illustrated with black and white reproductions. Now each of the 17 volumes have become the subject and title of each of Lipps' new work, for example 'Documentary', 'Special Problems', 'Caring', 'Camera' and 'Travel'. The colour backgrounds containing allusive imagery are all taken from Lipps' own archive.

There are a number of elements at play within the 'Library' series. The first and most visually impactful is the colour difference between the background and the collaged images. The background is filled with highly magnified images all with psychedelic hues, contrasted with the stark black and white of the cut outs. This colour contrast makes the collaged photographs pop out of the work. The viewer's eye is drawn directly to them. Another element within Matt Lipps' series is the manipulation of scale. Within his work a human hand can be larger than an astronaut, and a camera can tower over everything. Or, in other works within the series, everything becomes the same size; there is no sense of scale.

Lipps breathes new life into these iconic images. Through his appropriation and re-examination of these photographs, and collaging them alongside other images, he allows the viewer to make new connections and associations within each work.

Matt Lipps – Special Problems runs until 29th May at Josh Lilley Gallery, 44-46 Riding House St, London W1W 7EX.