

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, April 15, 2024



Franz Jantzen, *Ebenezer* (*The Great Trek Series, 2 of 6*), 2023, Edition of 15, Pigment ink on smooth cotton rag paper mounted on aluminum panel, 28" x 25 ½"

FRANZ JANTZEN

May 18 – June 29, 2024

Washington, DC - HEMPHILL is pleased to announce the exhibition, FRANZ JANTZEN, opening on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 4 – 6 p.m. The exhibition will remain on view through June 29, 2024.

A professional archivist is tasked with assessing materials of value, preserving them to the best of their ability with the technology available, and maintaining these collections so that the information can have an enduring impact on the communities and institutions that enshrine them. Franz Jantzen understands the responsibility implicitly, both professionally and in his artistic practice.

The exhibition of digital photography in *FRANZ JANTZEN* employs a systematic documentation process of image making that the artist has honed over decades. Countless hours are spent layering individual images, stratifying visual information while the artist improvises and arranges, altering the compositions and their colors to reflect deeper meanings. In some cases, the connotations are deeply personal; Jantzen's newest body of work, *The Great Trek Series*, imagines a journey the artist's ancestors took through foreign lands as compositions of paving stones in the open forum at Pompeii are intricately rendered. The artist explains,

In 1880 a small group of pacifist Mennonites followed a doomsday prophet from Russia across the desert to what is now Uzbekistan, where God was to arrive in March 1889. My dad's family was on this pilgrimage, though they left before the group reached their final destination. Along the way they received the kindness of strangers, and also suffered greatly. My series is about six geographic locations on that journey, in the order in which they appeared on the journey.

Exploring further into the images, locations, and references that Franz Jantzen utilizes in his compositions, a greater appreciation for the sum of these elements is achieved. By showing works with slight variations, the artist seeks to inspire in his audience the same sense of wonderment and careful attention that Jantzen sees in the source material. Encouraging a similar reverence for past, present, and future learning, perhaps even, a greater understanding of the world around us.

HEMPHILL opened in September 1993 and has since presented over 250 solo and group exhibitions in gallery spaces throughout Washington, DC and, since 2019, in DC's Mt Vernon Triangle location. The exhibition

schedule features modern and contemporary art in all media by artists ranging from emerging to mid-career to modern masters.

GALLERY HOURS:

Tuesday – Saturday 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

The gallery will be closed Saturday, May 25 – Monday, May 27, 2024, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Office hours will resume on Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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