

FAHEY/KLEIN  
G A L L E R Y

VINCENT LAFORET  
*AIR*

**December 10, 2015 through January 30, 2016**  
**Reception for the Artist: Thursday, December 10, 7-9 pm**  
**New Book Available**

The Fahey/Klein Gallery is pleased to present, *AIR*, the inaugural exhibition of work by contemporary photographer Vincent Laforet. The exhibition shares its name with the title of Laforet's newly released publication, which showcases ten cities photographed from the air. The cities in Laforet's series, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Berlin, London, Miami, San Francisco, Barcelona, and Sydney, are composed of vastly different color patterns and grids, each landscape subtly revealing much of the city's own architectural and socioeconomic history. Laforet deftly photographs these cities from a helicopter at extraordinary altitudes, ranging from 5,000 to 12,000 feet (helicopters typically fly between 500 and 1,500 feet). Coupled with Laforet's own technical expertise, the stunning clarity and sharpness he is able to capture was only possible until very recent advancements in camera sensor technology.

Before Laforet begins shooting, there is extensive planning that he and his team must undergo to prepare. Laforet uses modern mapping software to "pre-visualize" each city's unique patterns. Because Laforet is photographing at such unusually high altitudes, for every city, he and his team of logistic coordinators create detailed flight patterns that must be submitted and approved weeks before each flight. In certain instances, other air traffic must be diverted entirely in order for Laforet to fly so high over desired sections of the city.

Laforet's *AIR* quite literally reveals a vantage point not seen before. From these extreme heights, patterns, grids, and other aerial perspectives are revealed. These complex and dense cities are transformed to abstract and beautiful concentrations of lights—from modern blue LEDs, warm yellow Tungsten, and green Florescent lights. Dense and sprawling cities become compositions of light, delicately connected and stretching into darkness. These incredible images also have a temporal and fleeting aspect to them. As cities modernize, and the urban lighting grids evolve and become more efficient, the array of colors—blues, greens, oranges, yellows, purples and pinks—will largely disappear and over time, the cities' light will become uniform.

As Laforet summarizes in the epilogue of *AIR*, "We must continue to discuss and evaluate how we illuminate our cities more efficiently and responsibly as we move into the future. But what I encounter when I photograph these metropolitan wonders from the sky is not just waves of misdirected photons. What I sense, as I hang out of an open helicopter door thousands of feet up, is the energy, the passion, the aspirations, and the potential of those who live in the city below: the human energy."

Born in Switzerland, Vincent Laforet is a French American Photographer. In 2002, Laforet shared the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography as a member of *The New York Times* staff's overseas coverage of post 9/11 events. That same year, PDN also named Laforet as one of the "30 Photographers Under 30 to Watch" and in 2005 *American Photo Magazine* recognized him as one of the "100 Most Influential People in Photography. Laforet serves as consultant to companies such as Apple, Adobe, Carl Zeiss, Leica, Canon, Bogen, Lexar, and X-Rite. His commercial directorial clients include Apple, Nike, General Electric and Canon. He has been on assignment for *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Time*, *Newsweek* and *Life*. Vincent Laforet lives and works in Los Angeles and New York.