Picture of Health

Sam Falls **November 13, 2026 – January 16, 2027**

Parker Gallery is proud to present *Picture of Health*, a solo exhibition of new works by Sam Falls, his first at the gallery.

Sam Falls (b. 1984 in VT, lives in Los Angeles) works across artistic mediums, using natural materials and atmospheric environmental exposures to make works rooted in the indexical qualities of place. Originally working with photography, Falls shifted his practice to work outdoors with the critical precepts of photography–namely light, time, and exposure. This exhibition traces that evolution through paintings exposed to the elements, ceramics made with imprinted plant material, and a recent return to photography.

Earth Camera and *Artist Using Photography* (all works 2026) feature the artist's youngest son, playfully pointing a camera (and a pretend camera) back at the viewer. The images are printed on raw canvas, painted with washes and brush strokes applied on top of the image. The effect is that of a warped memory, with vital details intact yet somehow transformed over time.

Griffith Park (Ferndell Nature Museum) continues Falls' ongoing series of durational representations of nature on canvas. Made by layering the canvas with collected plants and dry pigments, Falls allows the arrangement to be exposed to the weather over several days, or weeks. Prolonged exposure to the elements activate the pigments, resulting in a kind of photogram, leaving ghostly silhouettes of plant material. The final painting is a record of the natural plant life of a specific place, as well as the moisture and sunlight in a climate at a particular moment in time.

Describing his ceramic works as "fossils for the future", Falls presses gathered botanical matter into the clay and fills the imprints with melted glass and glazes, permanently preserving the trace of a living thing. These life-size impressions capture a flower at a fleeting moment in its life cycle, drawing attention to the present moment while underscor-

ing the interdependence of every element in an ecosystem. The new ceramic works in the exhibition include: tondos with candle holders, a panoramic ceramic mosaic landscape, and in *Causae et Curae*, a figure–a depiction of Benedictine abbess Hildegard of Bingen, a Medieval mystic and scientist who recorded extensive discoveries in botanical medicine.

Cormac McCarthy's novels set in the vanishing mythic west have served as a touchstone for Falls while making work drawing from and depicting our fragile natural world. As McCarthy writes in *All the Pretty Horses*:

"He thought that in the beauty of the world were hid a secret. He thought that the world's heart beat at some terrible cost and that the world's pain and its beauty moved in a relationship of diverging equity and that in this headlong deficit the blood of multitudes might ultimately be exacted for the vision of a single flower."

Sam Falls (b. 1984) was raised in Vermont and lives and works in Los Angeles. He received his BA from Reed College in 2007 and his MFA from ICP-Bard in 2010. He has had exhibitions at Simose Museum, Hiroshima, Japan (2025); Cookie Factory, Denver, CO (2025); Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden (2024); the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland (2023); the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2018); Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Trento and Rovereto, Italy (2018); The Kitchen, New York (2015); Ballroom Marfa, Texas (2015); Pomona College Museum of Art (2014); Public Art Fund, New York (2014); and LAXART, Los Angeles (2013), among others. His work is included in the permanent collection of Albright Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France, Foundation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, and the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan, among others.