

DANZIGER

On Rivington

Press Release

The Vertigo Project by Jean Curran
December 13th 2018 – February 1st, 2019

Danziger Gallery is pleased to present a series of 20 dye transfer prints by Irish artist Jean Curran – a work of editing and re-presentation that takes key scenes from Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo* to reveal the cinematographic artistry of the film in a fresh and novel way.

Produced with the full co-operation of the Hitchcock estate, Curran first edited select frames from a rare original Technicolor dye imbibition print of *Vertigo* from 1958, and then printed them using the same dye transfer process by which the movie was made. Editing 20 still images from the hundreds of thousands of frames that make up the film, Curran switches from moving pictures to still prints to create a medium-jumping work in its own right.

Vertigo was first released on the 9th of May, 1958 and is now largely recognized as Hitchcock's greatest achievement. The story follows a police detective (Jimmy Stewart) who falls obsessively in love with the woman he has been paid to follow (Kim Novak). Suffering from traumatic vertigo Stewart fails to prevent Novak's character from jumping to her death. Stewart then spirals into an ever darker state of despair until a chance sighting of a girl who resembles Novak reignites his passion and unravels a complex web of deceit and crime.

The film's underlying themes of voyeurism, eroticism and dark emotions are portrayed delicately and with great intelligence through Hitchcock's rigorously composed shots while his use of color moves the story in masterfully layered compositions.

Recognized by film critics and connoisseurs for the care with which each scene was composed, the single frames and set-ups of *Vertigo* reveal Hitchcock's aesthetic not just as cinematic but as photographic, prefiguring and influencing the work of contemporary artists from Eggleston to Cindy Sherman. Brought to new life in Curran's richly luminous dye transfer prints *The Vertigo Project* is a fitting 60th anniversary tribute to the film.