



EXTINCTION PARTY
BY JONATHAN BLAUSTEIN

Obscura Gallery is excited to present an exhibition of works from the timely publication of Taos artist Jonathan Blaustein's photographic book, *Extinction Party*, published by Yoffy Press. This photographic book explores humanity's over-consumption and its impact on the planet. Exhibition viewing is available with Covid-safe guidelines including a mask required, 6-feet distance, and a limited capacity at any one-given time. The exhibition is on view beginning July 24 and will continue through August, 2020. The original scheduled book signing event has been postponed until further notice due to Covid-19.



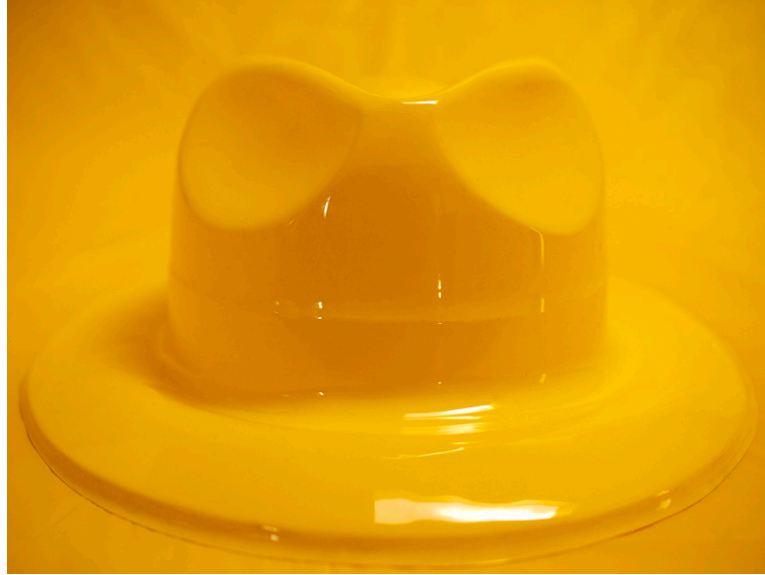
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Jonathan Blaustein, *One dollar's worth of double-cheeseburger from McDonalds*, 2008, 14 x19", Archival ultrachrome print, mounted to aluminum and laminated. Edition of 10.

Since 2008, at the onset of the Great Recession, photographer and conceptual artist Jonathan Blaustein has been working on art projects that investigate consumption in America, and he brings them together in one narrative in this first book, *Extinction Party*. In an unprecedented time of the Covid-19 pandemic, *Extinction Party* was (coincidentally and appropriately) released in March 2020. With the photo essay- the images and titles, forward essay by Kevin Kwan, and the metaphorical story in between, the book could not be a more timely commentary on the state of our Earth and humanity.



Jonathan Blaustein, *Yellow plastic fedora and yellow plastic tablecloth*, 2017, 9 x12", Dye sublimation on aluminum, mounted to a hollow, 2" white wood block. Edition of 5.

As the world grapples with the impact of climate change in the 21st Century, Blaustein's art presents a deconstructed view of the manner in which humans churn up the planet's resources for profit. Whether photographing food from around the world, nature harvested on his property outside Taos, NM, years worth of accumulated junk in his former studio, or party supplies from the megacorporation Party City, the consistent message is that we're eating away at our home planet, at considerable peril to all its existing species.



Jonathan Blaustein, *Red streamers and blue plastic tablecloth*, 2017, 9 x12", Dye sublimation on aluminum, mounted to a hollow, 2" white wood block. Edition of 5.

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Jonathan Blaustein, *One dollar's worth of tomatillos from Mexico*, 2008, 30 x 40", Archival ultrachrome prints, mounted, laminated and framed. Edition of 3



Jonathan Blaustein, *One dollar's worth of local peach from the farmer's market*, 2013, 30 x 40", Archival ultrachrome print, mounted to aluminum and laminated, then framed. Edition 1 of 3

Jonathan Blaustein is an artist, writer, and educator based in Taos, New Mexico. He received his MFA in Photography from Pratt Institute in 2004 and has exhibited his work widely in galleries and museums the US, and in festivals in Europe as well. His photographs are in the permanent collections of the Library of Congress, the State of New Mexico, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, among other institutions.



Jonathan Blaustein, *My icicles*, 2011, 24 x 32", Archival ultrachrome print, mounted to aluminum and laminated. Edition of 5.

Jonathan is a regular contributor to the popular blog *A Photo Editor* and spent six years as a photography critic for the New York Times Lens blog. He has also written about art and photography online for *The New Yorker*, *VICE*, and *Hyperallergic*. He taught photography at UNMTaos for many years and runs the Antidote Photo Retreat at his family horse farm outside Taos.

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Jonathan Blaustein, *Yellow mask and yellow plastic tablecloth*, 2017, 9 x12", Dye sublimation on aluminum, mounted to a hollow, 2" white wood block. Edition of 5.

Yoffy Press is an independent publisher dedicated to pushing the boundaries of photobook publishing. Working in true partnership with artists, we look beyond the book as a container of images, integrating physical and conceptual design to create distinct art objects.

Kevin Kwan is a Singaporean novelist best known for his satirical novels *Crazy Rich Asians*, *China Rich Girlfriend* and *Rich People Problems*. In 2014, Kwan was named as one of the "Five Writers to Watch" on the list of Hollywood's Most Powerful Authors published by *The Hollywood Reporter*. In 2018, Kwan made *Time* magazine's list of 100 most influential people and was inducted into The Asian Hall of Fame, a project of the Robert Chinn Foundation established in 2004.

Extinction Party

Photographs by Jonathan Blaustein

Essay by Kevin Kwan

Yoffy Press

Hardcover, four variations

10 x 7.5 inches 96 pages

Edition of 400

ISBN: 978-1-949608-10-6

Released March 2020

Links to four recent press articles on Extinction Party:

Washington Post

Photograph Magazine

PhotoBook Journal

Float Magazine

[Link to view more works from Extinction Party here.](#)

THE GALLERY LOCATION AND HOURS

Obscura Gallery is located in the Santa Fe downtown historic district two blocks east of the revitalized Downtown Railyard district. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic adjustments, it is advisable to confirm gallery hours by checking the website.

Parking is limited. Additional parking is available Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 9:00pm at the State Capitol Parking Facility municipal garage located at 485 Galisteo Street and on weekends metered parking always available on Galisteo street next to the Parking Facility.

For more information please contact:

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