



James Casebere

The Spatial Unconscious

Williamsburg Biannual, Brooklyn, NY

September 25 – January 17, 2026

Opening reception: Thursday, September 25

Sean Kelly and the Williamsburg Biannual are delighted to announce James Casebere: *The Spatial Unconscious*, a major presentation of the artist's work at the Williamsburg Biannual. Spanning five decades, and three floors, this exhibition brings together a selection of Casebere's rarely seen works in various media many of which have not previously been shown in New York. Featuring work from the mid-1970s to the present, the exhibition includes Polaroids, waterless lithographs, early black-and-white and recent color photographs, as well as sculpture. Casebere has long been recognized for his innovative approach to photography, merging the sculptural and the architectural with the conceptual. As a central figure of the Pictures Generation, his practice has consistently challenged the boundaries of medium, using photography not as documentation but as the artwork itself to explore how individual and collective realities are constructed.

Casebere's photographs address issues ranging from the psychological and personal to the social, historical, and political. Working with meticulously built models, he creates images that blur the line between fact and fiction, evoking the tension between permanence and fragility. His process - building, altering and re-imagining architectural forms - foregrounds photography as more than documentation, transforming it into a primary event that interrogates memory, truth, and power while reflecting on the shifting conditions of contemporary life.



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Casebere's sculptures extend his longstanding engagement with architecture, embracing materiality, light, and space as central concerns. His *Pavilion for 2 or 3*, installed at PS21 in Chatham, NY, is made of cross-laminated timber and brings this experience to the public space and natural world. His *Shou Sugi Ban* sculptures, featured in the exhibition, are constructed from sustainable bamboo plywood using the traditional Japanese technique after which they are titled. These large-scale geometric forms evoke both organic growth and architectural structure. Their charred surfaces embody a duality of preservation and destruction, tradition and innovation, offering an analog, sensory experience that underscores the passage of time while suggesting new possibilities for how we inhabit and imagine space.

Deeply informed by architecture, literature, politics, and cultural history, Casebere's work reflects a persistent engagement with questions of place and identity, as well as broader social forces. From his earliest black-and-white experiments to his most recent photographs and sculptures, *The Spatial Unconscious* offers a rare opportunity to trace the evolution of an artist whose practice continues to mirror and question the narratives that shape both history and the present moment.

About James Casebere:

James Casebere, born in 1953, is a pioneering figure in constructed photography whose practice over the past four decades has explored the intersections of architecture, history, and narrative. After studying at Michigan State University, the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, BFA, 1976, the Whitney Independent Study Program in 1977, and CalArts MFA in 1979, Casebere began developing meticulously crafted models based on architectural, cinematic, and art historical sources, which he photographs to create evocative images of abandoned or depopulated spaces. His work has shifted from examinations of American mythologies to institutional architecture, probing how social structures, such as commerce, labor, religion, and law, shape collective realities. Casebere is widely celebrated and collected by major institutions including the Whitney Museum, MoMA, the Guggenheim, LACMA, and the Victoria and Albert Museum, amongst others. His sculptural works have been exhibited at T Space, Rhinebeck, New York and PS21, Chatham, New York. Casebere has received numerous awards, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the American Academy in Rome. Survey exhibitions of his work have been presented at Haus der Kunst, Munich; BOZAR, Brussels; and Espace Images Vevey, Switzerland.

About The Williamsburg Biannual:

The Williamsburg Biannual is a new nonprofit artist space in Brooklyn, New York. The Williamsburg Biannual celebrates the diversity and creativity of the artists and designers practicing in New York City through programs and exhibitions that are open to the public. Founded by creative professionals working in art and architecture and inspired by the city's



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rich history of alternative art spaces, the Biannual promotes interdisciplinary dialogue and experimentation. Located at 333 Kent Avenue, steps from the iconic Williamsburg Bridge and Domino Park, the Williamsburg Biannual's home is an adaptive reuse and expansion of a 1920's 10,000sf warehouse, beautifully designed by JAZ Architect. The Biannual's premises include over 7,500sf of public gathering space, a black box event space for talks, films and music, an informal auditorium and casual seating area, double height galleries and a private outdoor space. Of those, 4,000sf is dedicated art exhibition space, spread over three levels. Natural light permeates throughout the building, creating a serene environment, an urban oasis for art viewing, contemplation, discussion, and enjoyment.

About Sean Kelly Gallery:

Since its inception in 1991, Sean Kelly Gallery has been internationally regarded for its diverse, intellectually driven program and a highly regarded roster of artists. The gallery has garnered international attention for its high caliber exhibition program and collaboration with many of the most significant cultural institutions around the world. Over the course of more than thirty years, the Gallery has become a symbol for high quality, thought-provoking contemporary art and conversation.

For more information about The Williamsburg Biannual, visit www.williamsburgbiannual.org

For information about James Casebere, please visit skny.com

For inquiries, please email Cecile Panzieri at Cecile@skny.com

For media inquiries, please email Adair Lentini at Adair@skny.com

Image caption: James Casebere, *Sea of Ice*, 2014, framed fine art pigment print, framed: 41 3/8 x 52 3/8 x 2 1/4 inches, Edition of 5 with 2APs © James Casebere Courtesy: the artist and Sean Kelly, New York/Los Angeles