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ONLINE EXHIBITION

DAVID MAISEL

Desolation Desert

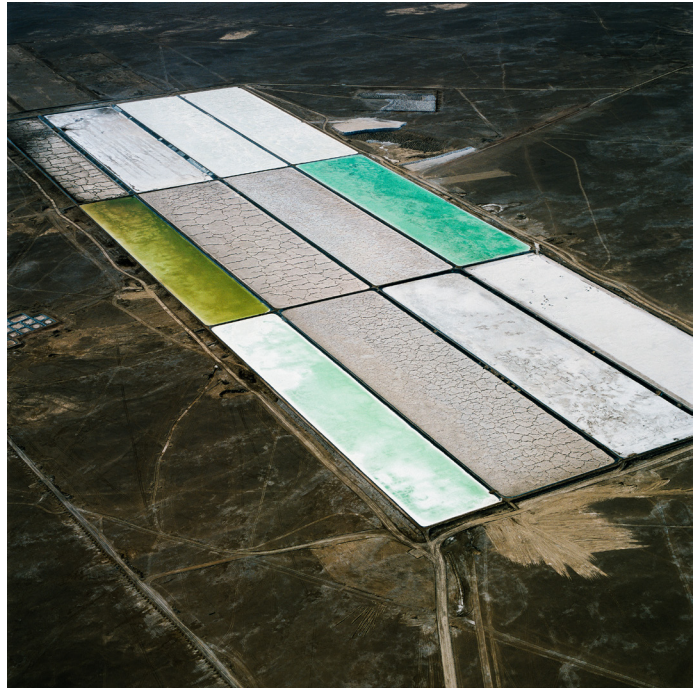
Haines Gallery proudly presents ***Desolation Desert***, an exhibition of photographs from **David Maisel's** latest series of works. Created with the support of a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, *Desolation Desert* focuses on the massive copper and lithium mining operations that are impacting Chile's vast Atacama Desert.

The Atacama Desert revealed in *Desolation Desert* contains a complex and contradictory series of developments. The highest and driest desert on the planet, this sensitive eco-region is being transformed at an unparalleled pace and scale, as Chile responds to the global demand for lithium batteries for our cell phones, laptops, and electric vehicles. While lithium is promoted as an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels, these mining operations are shifting the burden of energy production onto sacrificial landscapes in the southern hemisphere, such as the Atacama.

At first glance, Maisel's images of the Atacama are abstract, graphic, and painterly, offering viewers detailed, open-ended information that operates on a metaphorical level as much as a documentary one. Lush, saturated colors belie sites of environmental damage and man-made trauma. Ponds of toxic waste appear as feathery strokes in shades of deep blue. Glossy, jewel-toned brine pools from which lithium is harvested draw tons of water from the earth, diverting supplies from local and indigenous communities in an already water-scarce climate. The images in *Desolation Desert*, Maisel writes, "map industrial development beyond the city limits, [showing] how the supposedly remote Atacama Desert is becoming part of a planetary fabric of urbanization, and at what cost."

Desolation Desert is Maisel's eighth solo exhibition with Haines Gallery. The show coincides with the release of his latest monograph, *Proving Ground*, jointly published by Radius Books and the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art at Utah State University.

David Maisel was born in 1961 in New York, NY and lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area. His photographs, multi-media projects, and public installations have been exhibited internationally, and are in the collections of leading institutions, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; George Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Minneapolis Institute of Arts, MN; and National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.



David Maisel, *Desolation Desert, Iodine Sulfate Nitrate Extraction 1, Aguas Blancas, Atacama, Chile*, 2018
Archival pigment print, 48 x 48 inches / 29 x 29 inches
Edition of 6 + 2 AP