

# KAHN & SELESNICK SWEET DREAMS



BRADBURY ART MUSEUM  
SEPTEMBER 14 - NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Kahn & Selesnick's latest project *Madame Lulu's Book of Fate* continues the adventures of the Truppe Fledermaus, a cabaret troupe of anxious mummers and would-be mystics who catalogue their absurdist attempts to augur a future that seems increasingly in peril due to environmental pressures and global turmoil. In this body of work, the artists also examine the notion of the carnivalesque; traditionally the carnival was a time when the normal order of society was upended and reversed, so that at least for a day the fool might become king, the sinner a priest, men and women might cross dress, and sacred ceremonies and normal mores are burlesqued and spoofed. During such brief times of anarchy, societal pressures were relieved by revealing their somewhat absurd and arbitrary natures. Costumes and masks were traditionally worn so that all people might have the same social status during the duration of the festival. The Truppe ask you to consider: is it the carnival that is upside-down, or perhaps the real world that it purports to burlesque?

Nicholas Kahn and Richard Selesnick are a collaborative artist team who work primarily in the fields of photography and installation art, specializing in fictitious histories set in the past or future. Kahn & Selesnick have participated in over a hundred solo and group exhibitions, have work in over twenty collections, and have published three books with Aperture Press.

front: *Sunset Augury*, 2017, dye sublimation print, 40 inch diameter



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