

# CASEMORE

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# KIRKEBY

John Gossage  
*Hey Fuckface*

November 30 - January 26, 2019

Opening reception: Friday, November 30, 2018, 6-8pm

## HEY FUCKFACE

A SHORT INTERVIEW WITH JOHN GOSSAGE BY PETER LLOYD, 1991

P.L. *What the hell is all this fucking shit about, anyway?*

J.G. *None of your goddamn business.*

1999

*It wasn't until 1999 when Mr. Gossage had lost interest in following up on the work seen here that I finally got him to tell me about "all this shit." After the usual arguments about whether I would "really be interested" and the complaints that it should "all be obvious" he started to talk about the making of the project he had entitled "The Plains of Hell."*

*"The Plains of Hell" is apparently a Cajun fiddle tune that Gossage has never heard but had always liked the title of. The pictures were made in New York State: Staten Island, and in the area around Syracuse. The exact places for the images were chosen by consulting the 103c list of hazardous waste sites that the EPA issued. That list details specific locations of massive pollution that have not yet made it to the more public Superfund list. Gossage said that at first he would use a map and drive to the precise locations detailed on the list, but as he did more shooting he found he could tell when a site was coming up by "what you might call visual smell."*

*The complete project took a little over a month in 1984, and has only been exhibited in "a stupid group show in the Netherlands, where one of the pictures was reproduced upsidedown." Given that none of the reviews of that show mention these photographs it would appear that Gossage is correct when he says that no one "gave a shit." But to be fair, it would also seem that no one had much of an idea either what they were about. So what are they about?*

*THEY'RE ABOUT CURSES. Curses offering a chance to register anger, but usually not meaning what they say. The curses of the present, without religion or mystery. The only ones left to be seen in modern times. The revenge of the inert on the organic, played out in the landscape.*

*The push behind Gossage's method of working had been the desire not to choose places to photograph in an aesthetic manner, "nothing that looked promising," but to have all location choices predetermined by the previous actions of others. "There is something odious about the finding of things you can make something out of. It's more interesting to revert to the old idea of having the place bear its literature in its facts."*

*The other oddity of method employed is a balancing on the line between dread and humor in the content of the finished pieces. Setting up the audience with a lack of balance that .....*

*(It would seem that the remaining paragraphs are either "wrong" or "bullshit" or more likely, let too much go of the photographers strategies. So in the final edit I have been asked to end here. Mr. Gossage and the author hope though that the viewer will thoroughly enjoy these works.)*

Peter Lloyd, Paris, June 3rd, 1999

NZ

**John Gossage** (born in New York, 1946) is an American photographer, noted for his artist's books and other publications using his photographs to explore under-recognised elements of the urban environment such as abandoned tracts of land, debris and garbage, and graffiti, and themes of surveillance, memory and the relationship between architecture and power. His first monograph, *The Pond* (1985), was reissued in 2010; other notable titles include *Stadt Des Schwarz* (1987); *There and Gone* (1997); *Snake Eyes* (2002); *Berlin in the Time of the Wall* (2004); and *The Thirty-Two Inch Ruler/Map of Babylon* (2010). His work is in the permanent collections of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Sprengel Museum, Hannover, among others. Gossage lives in Washington, D.C. He is the recipient of a 2012 Guggenheim Fellowship.

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**Location:** Casemore Kirkeby, 1275 Minnesota Street, #102, San Francisco, CA 94107

**Show Title:** *John Gossage: Hey Fuckface*

**Exhibition Dates:** November 30 - January 26, 2019

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**Gallery Hours:** Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 6pm

For press inquiries, please contact the gallery (415) 851-9808 or [info@casemorekirkeby.com](mailto:info@casemorekirkeby.com)