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Sandy Skoglund: *Outtakes*

September 2 – October 15, 2022

Reception: Friday, September 2, from 5-7pm

(Marfa, TX) RULE Gallery is pleased to present *Outtakes*, an exhibition of photographs and sculptures by Sandy Skoglund at our Marfa location, following a celebrated run at our Denver gallery. A public reception will be held Friday, September 2, from 5-7pm. The show will be on view from September 2 to October 15. Gallery hours are Wednesday – Saturday, 11am-5 pm.

Sandy Skoglund is an American photographer and installation artist best known for her fantastical and brightly colored tableaux from the 80s, 90s, and early 2000's. Meticulously crafted as elaborate sets, Skoglund's surrealistic scenes—comprised of various props, sculptural elements, and human models—are subsequently photographed, one composition among many chosen to represent the work. But what of the other images, the fate of those deemed mistakes or inconsistent with the artist's initial vision? In a nod to the deep cuts and the varieties of artistic experience, *Outtakes* presents a selection of unseen works of some of Skoglund's most iconic and innovative installations.

In the wake of a global pandemic and with time stretching out in a vast open sea of uncertainty, Skoglund's itinerant curiosity turned to what the artist called "countless boxes in the classic yellow of the Kodak company" of archived negatives—the outtakes. Decades removed from their inception, the images slowly revealed their secrets. For the relentlessly iterative Skoglund, the kinship to and divergence from the originals spoke of the vagaries of the artistic process and, more generally, how most of us move through life between ambiguity and clarity, searching for answers in the minefield of doubt. Some of the narrative translations of the outtakes are drastically altered via choreographic whims, while other discrepancies—a blur here, a frame shift there—read like endearing fractures in space and time that take a scrutinizing eye to discern.

The photographs in *Outtakes* can be viewed as an embodiment of the repetition and abundance that have always coursed through Skoglund's work. Like the thousands of arranged popped kernels of corn in *Warm Frost* (2001), each one exploding with its own particular expression, the images on display revel in the same visual bounty as the archetypes while also suggesting an alternative to the notion of the ideal composition. Latent potentialities come to light when we look again upon things we have long known and remark in them what we have never seen before. A decidedly more personal and unfiltered glimpse of Skoglund's work, *Outtakes* is an ode to the revelations inherent in reappraising, in her words, "the things you leave behind when you have to make choices."

Sandy Skoglund (b. 1946, Weymouth, MA) received a BA in 1968 from Smith College in Northampton, MA, and her MFA from the University of Iowa in 1972. After college, Skoglund moved to New York City and, over the course of the last half-century, has become one of the most recognized and celebrated installation artists and photographers in contemporary art today. Her work has been exhibited extensively worldwide, including institutions in New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Denver, Miami, San Francisco, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Scottsdale, San Antonio, St. Louis, Boston, London, Paris, Milan, Venice, Geneva, Zurich, Barcelona, Tokyo, Shanghai, Moscow, Berlin, Munich, Stockholm, and Seoul among many others. Today her work is collected by numerous prominent institutions, including the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Chicago Art Institute; Dallas Museum of Art; Denver Art Museum; J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu, CA; Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, CA; Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, NY; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; Princeton University Museum of Art, Princeton, NJ; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; and the Yale University Gallery, New Haven, CN, among others. Skoglund currently teaches at Rutgers University and lives in Jersey City, NJ.