

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Thomas Dozol –
Memory played me like a violin**

3 November – 3 December 2017

French Riviera

309 Bethnal Green Road
London E2 6AH
United Kingdom
+ 44 (0) 20 7729 8000
frenchriviera1988.com

Open Friday – Sunday
12 – 6pm & by appointment



Thomas Dozol
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French Riviera is pleased to present **Thomas Dozol – *Memory played me like a violin***, the artist's second solo exhibition at the gallery. The show features a series of portraits that document Dozol's time in New York, overlaid with screen-printed shapes. Some of his subjects are well known, others are unknown, either might have their faces obscured – collectively they represent the many interconnected stories that make up one creative milieu of New York City at this moment in time.

Thomas Dozol is an artist based between New York, USA and Berlin, Germany. He studied in Paris and then moved to New York to pursue a career as an actor. Finding himself more interested in working behind the camera, he held his first exhibition of photography in 2008. Since then, he has had solo exhibitions in São Paulo, New York, London, and Berlin.

Thomas Dozol: 'This show is about memory. Specifically, it looks at the space between the desire to crystallize a moment and the acknowledgment of the impossibility of that desire. The impetus of this body of work was my imminent move from New York to Berlin. I wanted to document a community at a certain point in time. Peter Hujar's portraiture always fascinated me, how his relationship to the models is imprinted in the images. Thus, I decided to photograph only people who I wanted to have a conversation with, ranging from really close friends to new acquaintances.'

Geometry somehow always helps me process information, a probable remnant of my training in mathematics, and I started drawing on the photographic images – I wanted to try to encapsulate different elements into pared-down geometric shapes: memory, relationships, desire and composition. The hand-drawn shapes began redefining the portraits. To challenge my tendency for mathematical precision, I experimented with the ink during the screen printing process to allow an element of chance and chaos within the constraints of geometry.'

Further information and images: mail@frenchriviera1988.com

Notes to editors:

- Artists Samuel Levack and Jennifer Lewandowski opened French Riviera in Bethnal Green, in 2011, as an extension of their longstanding collaboration. The gallery provides an exhibition platform for emerging and established international artists, and through its collaborative public programme, aims to promote social cohesion amongst the multicultural communities of the East End. levacklewandowski.com
- Recent solo exhibitions include: Lisa Brice, Tom Ellis, Fabienne Hess, Cary Loren, Lyle Perkins, Jessica Warboys, Lucy Woodhouse. The 2017 programme is supported by Arts Council England through Grants for the Arts. frenchriviera1988.com