



Kirsten Hoving

The Origin of Time

Archival digital print on rag paper, edition 1/10

Opening bid: \$300.00

Artist statement:

When did time begin? Was it when the first clock was made, or when people began to count the passing of the sun from day to night, or when the stars and planets began to take shape with the Big Bang? Can there be time without humans to reckon it? Is time different in other parts of the galaxy? Can we have time without revolving around the sun? These are some of the questions I considered as I created *The Origin of Time*. To produce this work, I made a negative photographic print, trimmed to the edges of the face of the Goddard clock, which I then soaked in water and placed on a piece of fabric sprinkled with water. Strange clouds and flashes appeared as I directed several different colored lights on the wet surfaces, suggesting the cosmic origin of a sun or planet. I imagined the clock in the context of the beginning of cosmic time, appearing as a mirage in a star-filled sky. I was struck by the odd interplay play between the Goddard clock and the Goddard Space Center in Houston, as well as the yellow flash of a “sun” that seems to create a reverse eclipse with the concentric circles of the clock face. I also found myself thinking about ultra-deep field images from the Hubble Space Telescope that show the universe in its infancy, as it appeared a few hundred million years after the Big Bang. Starlight is old light

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Kirsten Hoving is Professor of Art History at Middlebury College, where she teaches and writes about modern art and the history of photography. She is also a photographer and has shown her work internationally in many solo and group exhibitions. Among her recent work is a collaborative project with her daughter, Emma Powell, titled "Svala's Saga," selections from which will be shown this winter at the William Henry Fox Talbot Museum at Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire, UK. As an art historian, Kirsten is a specialist on the work of Joseph Cornell, with her most recent book, *Joseph Cornell and Astronomy: A Case for the Stars* (Princeton University Press). Her photographic work also explores the cosmos, often in surreal and unexpected ways, as in her series *Night Wanderers*, in which assemblages of objects, old photographs and ice picture the constellations.