

CRISTIN TIERNEY

ArtReview

The Top 10 Exhibitions to See in January 2024

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Mary Lucier, *Leaving Earth* (still), 2023, multi-channel video and sound installation. Courtesy the artist and Cristin Tierney Gallery, New York

Mary Lucier: *Leaving Earth*

Cristin Tierney Gallery, New York, 19 January - 2 March

'A succession of discontinuous moments occur then disappear, without the elemental structure of sequence.' These words, which feature in the text of the multichannel video *Leaving Earth*, were found by Lucier in the final journal kept by her husband, the late painter and writer Robert Berling, who died of cancer in December 2015. Lucier, a pioneer of video art and video installation, has made work on the subject of loss and regeneration for many years. In *Noah's Raven* (1993) she explores the imprint of catastrophic

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phenomena on the landscape with footage shot in Alaska, the Ohio River and the Brazilian Amazon; in *Floodsongs* (1998), the installation presents the people of Grand Forks, North Dakota, a town devastated by the 1997 Red River Flood, talking about their lives before and after the disaster. In this new piece, she turns to a more personal and intimate subject matter, which like the other works is defined by a sense of loss and grief, but also of warmth and humanity. Lucier has described *Leaving Earth* as a work where ‘words, pictures, and sound become interchangeable, not serving as descriptions but as a rumination on reality and a form of coping’. The above quote from Berlind’s journal continues ‘And yet... I forget to fear death’ in another form of tender affirmation of life – that is, a form of coping. *Orit Gat*



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