

FRANÇOIS RÉAU

Facing any surface, a dream of depth

Exhibit : February 1st to March 13th, 2018

Opening: Thursday February 1st, 5 to 9 pm



François Réau, *Éclipse*, 2016, lead pencil and graphite on paper, 210 x 228 cm

For his first solo exhibit at the gallery, François Réau is showing a selection of lead pencil drawings on paper, a prolongation of his research around drawing and landscape.

With the landscape as spatial element, and its processes of transformation, as sources of reflection, François Réau's work is defined by his questioning around man and nature. The themes of temporality, of the fragility of human life and the unsayable remain ever present. A reflection on being and becoming inherent to his work induces in the viewer a feeling of immersion involving all of her/his senses, particularly when dealing with large formats. The drawing in its vastness escapes its support, leaching into and invading the space of the exhibit, taking on a three dimensional quality when the artist attempts to exceed the limits of his medium. Symptomatic of his desire to go beyond the notion of drawing in a classical understanding of the term, the line, as primary element of the medium, becomes emancipated and expends into the space of the exhibit, thus granting the drawing the possibility to offer a spatiotemporal frame for an experience of visual reflection.

Drawings and installations are the main forms of the work of François Réau, multidisciplinary artist, whose recent pieces were shown in the context of the Lille3000, of Mons European Culture Capital 2015, and at the Toulon and Menton Art Museum. His work deals with the principle of the appearing and disappearing of figures and motifs, at the very core of the materials. Finalist for the "Talents Contemporains" awards of the François Schneider Foundation at Wattwiller in 2015 and 2016, he has participated both in solo shows and collective exhibits in France and abroad (London, Brussels, Turin, Beijing). One of his recent installations was presented at the Palais de Tokyo in 2016 and he has just finished a six-week research and creation residency with the French Embassy in Australia. His resulting works will be exhibited there, in Melbourne, in April 2018.

François Réau was born in 1978.

He lives and works in Pantin, France.

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