

CLAUDIA MELLI

Todo estado de alma é uma paisagem

Exhibition : From October 19 to November 15, 2023

**Inauguration : Thursday, October 19, 2023, from 6:00PM to 9:00PM
with the artist in attendance**



Claudia Melli, *O silêncio é algo que você na verdade ouve*, 2019
Indian ink on glass
Triptych : 92 x 92 x 5,5 cm each

Claudia Melli works on the border between drawing, painting and image, in an attempt not only to test the limits of these techniques, but also to question the nature of our own perception mechanisms. In a world where the excess of images harasses us daily, we almost automatically identify what we see as images.

On the occasion of this first exhibition at Virginie Louvet Gallery, Brazilian artist Claudia Melli presents a series of six works taken from her *Série Azul* and rooted in a thematic that is dear to the artist's practice: the sea. She chooses immediately an evocative title, *Todo estado de alma é uma paisagem* (in English, "Every state of mind is a landscape"), an expression borrowed from the Portuguese poet and writer Fernando Pessoa.

The twilights of Claudia Melli's landscapes are like dreams, reveries and wandering thoughts, which resist linear time. When we get closer to each of her works, we notice that what appeared to be a photograph, a reproduction, is in fact a subtle ink painting on glass. The artist is indeed inspired by classic techniques, such as the play of chiaroscuro, while aiming to disturb the border between image and non-image, to play with their decipherment.

Observing the sea reminds us that there is a balance in what is not homogeneous. By letting yourself be carried away by the rhythm that presents itself, you feel a feeling of recognition and interconnection between yourself and nature. The immensity that the artist manages to evoke through her inks on glass is an invitation to contemplate the sublime. Whether they represent dawn or dusk, they are spaces in which indefinite time is suspended, transitions that neither begin nor end.

Claudia Melli's work was the subject of a solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, curated by Luiz Camillo Osório in 2015. In 2022, Melli participated in the 13th edition of the Mercosul Biennial under the curatorship of Marcello Dantas. After following an artistic training at the Escola de Artes Visuais do Parque Lage in the 1990s, Claudia Melli participated in several exhibitions in institutions, galleries and museums in Brazil. Her works are present in several collections such as the Banco Espírito Santo collection, José Olympio Pereira, Luis Paulo Montenegro and the Gilberto Chateaubriand collection, among others.

Claudia Melli was born in 1966 in São Paulo. She lives and works in Rio de Janeiro.