

Baronian Xippas

Press release

Leando Erlich Nubes

Zeedijk 731
8300 Knokke-Heist

30.10.2021 - 09.01.2022

Opening

Saturday 30.10.2021
4 to 8 pm

Leando Erlich Nubes

“We are what we think, having become what we thought,”
- The Dhammapada

“It’s cloud illusions I recall”
- Joni Mitchell

Baronian Xippas Knokke is pleased to be hosting the first solo exhibition of Leandro Erlich (born 1973, lives and works in Buenos Aires and Montevideo).

At a recent talk that I gave at a museum, someone asked me about the origin of the cloud series. As I offered an answer, I realized that this piece has taught me a lot about the circuitous nature of the creative process and how art mirrors the mind. The *Cloud Series* began as something entirely different and has changed over time, shifting and morphing as clouds do. At the time, I was working on a project for a building in Japan and needed to create some screens that would stop the wind. My initial attempts led to the first *Cloud*, a composite of multiple panes of glass that, when seen from the right angle, appear as a three-dimensional image. While I sometimes plan a piece from the very beginning and know where I’m headed as I work, this series was an on-going experience in which the *Cloud* emerged. I don’t think that one approach is superior to another, the intuitive process of doing versus the fully-formed plan, but there’s something about this more hazy and fortuitous experience that I value as an artist. Like an idea, the *Cloud* is both totally real and an illusion.

Atmospheric clouds have always been a screen for human projection, while at the same time being nothing more than a momentary event, what the writer Jon Mooallem calls “a conspiracy of vapor.” Yet we continue to look to the sky for signs, signals. We see what we imagine and we feel connected to our interpretation, like the Rorschach Test or other people’s intentions or so many other things that we appropriate with our minds.

Like much of my work, the *Cloud Series* appears to be one thing, while at the same time plainly revealing that it is another (all you have to do is switch your vantage point and you understand the mechanism at work), but like *Swimming Pool*, the effect still holds a certain magic. I really like to work within that tension between belief and rational understanding, which is not unlike our relationship with clouds. *Clouds* are as “unreliable” as an object can be and yet we are deeply attached to them in our daily lives. We are always trying to hold on to the ephemeral and the *Cloud Series* captures that desire, while highlighting its impossibility.

- Leandro Erlich, 2021

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Leandro Erlich (born in 1973 in Buenos Aires) lives and works in Buenos Aires and Montevideo. Recent solo exhibitions include *THE CONFINES OF THE GREAT VOID*, Sea World Cultural Center, Shenzhen (2021), *ATENSÃO*, curated by Marcello Dantas, Cultural Center Banco do Brasil, Belo Horizonte (2021), *THE CONFINES OF THE GREAT VOID*, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing (2019), *Sous le ciel*, Le Bon Marché, Paris (2018), Mori Museum, Tokyo (2017), Neuberger Museum of Art, New York (2017), 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (2014). Recent group exhibitions include *Lex Extatiques*, Paris La Défense (2018), *Prix Marcel Duchamp (2000-2018)*, TsingHua University Art Museum, Beijing (2018), *Draw me a Flag "A Beautiful Elsewhere"*, Fondation pour l'Art Contemporain, Power Station of Art, Shanghai (2018), *No Place Like Home*, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem (2017), *Enjoy*, Chiostro del Bramante, Rome (2017) and *Full Moon*, Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar (2016).