

GILLES BECHET – MU-IN THE CITY – 08 JUIN 2023

<https://www.mu-inthecity.com/lucile-bertrand-francois-reau-irene-laub-gallery>

GALERIES CONTEMPORAIN ART

LUCILE BERTRAND AND FRANÇOIS RÉAU ARE THE LANDSCAPE

The Irène Laub Gallery has invited Lucile Bertrand and François Réau to create a dialogue between their meditative works, which imprint time and recompose landscapes. On view until July 20.

There is something elusive in landscape that intrigues us. Still and changing. A retreat from the self to connect with something greater than oneself. Lucile Bertrand and François Réau, the two artists presented by Irène Laub Gallery Gallery complement and respond to each other in an exploration of time, memory and their shifting, moving boundaries.

Using branches picked up on the street or in the forest, and neon tubes as writing implements, **François Réau** draws lines in space. Between nature and fiction. Lines again on the monumental installation occupying one wall of the gallery. The black pencil lines that cover this triptych appear tightly packed together, like a moving, vibrating mass. As you stare at the drawing, you can make out an abstract landscape where indecisive shapes reveal themselves according to the intensity of the stroke. This meticulous, hypnotic work is like a meditative measurement of time, echoed by the swarm of small copper weights suspended high up on imperceptible white wires, as if the six months the artist took to create his fresco had become frozen, giving a physical measure of the time elapsed.

POETIC ELECTROCARDIOGRAMS

Entering **Lucile Bertrand's** world is like crossing an invisible frontier that has taken the form of suspended veils of beige linen. Words and abstract calligraphy appear through erasure, like a textile metaphor of memory's wanderings.

In the *Des routes et des mots* (Routes and words) series, the artist sketches the journeys of various writer duos: Toni Morrison and William Faulkner, Paul Celan and Kateb Yacine or François Rabelais and Jonathan Swift. Displacements, reduced to a stroke of color oscillating on the white sheet, appear like poetic electrocardiograms of writing. For Marcel Proust and Emily Dickinson, immobile travelers of the pen, the journey is reduced to a small horizontal line, a dash, while for others, the sinuous line ventures far beyond the thin pencil frame, too restricted to constrain their imaginations.

FRAGMENTS OF LANDSCAPE

In the drawing *I'm in transit*, a desolate landscape drawn in graphite is punctuated by words repeated like a mantra and covered in white paint, like the white lines on the asphalt of the road.

Also featured is *Temps suspendu*, the poetic feather sculpture created for the Enghien Biennial in 2020.

An unclassifiable artist, Lucile Bertrand moves from image to word, from the intimate to the landscape. She adopts a variety of media and materials, from installation to sculpture, drawing and photography. "I like all materials, but I don't choose them. They impose themselves on me." The words she often resorts to are used as a material, the material of memory. Sometimes at the very edge of legibility, they appear in typos that are sometimes tiny, printed, drawn or inlaid in the space of the image, as in her deep photos printed on the back of a glass plate and set against a pencil drawing.

The superimposition of layers creates an indefinite visual space that echoes the fragments of landscape she photographs, bordering on abstraction. "It's an intimate work that invites the viewer to get as close as possible to understand what's going on." After getting up close, we move away, keeping traces of what we've seen. Here and elsewhere.

Voyageurs immobiles (Still Travelers)

Lucile Bertrand and François Réau

Irène Laub Gallery

29 rue Van Eyck, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

> July 20 2023

Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm

www.irenelaubgallery.com