

BORTOLAMI

Marina Rheingantz

Varzea

27 April – 2 June 2018

Opening Friday, April 27th from 6:00 – 8:00pm

We are pleased to present *Varzea*, the first solo exhibition in New York of São Paulo-based artist Marina Rheingantz.

Rheingantz is an artist who picks apart and unravels topology into its loosest forms. She references tapestries, carpets, textiles, forests, mountains, soccer fields, skate parks, excavation sites; anyplace where one might traverse. She takes notes with her camera to frame specific elements of landscapes but, in her paintings, embeds fragmented memories of real and imagined locales. As one plane bleeds into another, the horizon line loses its relevance. Her compositions are all ground and no sky, or the landscapes risk becoming too real or familiar.

Rheingantz's work exudes a thick, humid atmosphere, and her vision suggests a dystopian future; her environments are deserted, abandoned, and have given way to ruin and overgrowth. Her construction sites are defined only by their stakes and outlines, frozen and incomplete.

The monumental scale of Rheingantz's paintings belie their intimacy. Her detailed brushstrokes and careful scraping render structures that appear as small as maquettes on a carpeted floor or as large as a building site in a barren expanse. *Pisador*, the painting whose title names the small rectangle of fabric upon which one steps before sleep, blends textile with terrain. Palm trees and tall grass blur into the milky froth of a dreamscape. And *Varzea*, in which the ruins and remnants of human activity dissolve into a flood-soaked field, again, transforms into a carpet, whose fabric then weaves and sprouts into a pitch. The multiple perspectives and planes in the painting allude to the double meaning of "varzea" in Portuguese, both forested seasonal floodplain and tricky situation. *Jorro*, Portuguese for a spurt or stream, depicts a muddied fountain that vacillates between water feature and tree with the haze and fog of a lush forested landscape sublimated in paint.

Rheingantz's paintings spend months accruing layers of oil paint. She does not set out with a particular narrative in mind, rather the painting itself dictates how she might assemble the work. She builds them up to sand them down and scrape away; pressing her medium through the linen weave like a sieve. She excavates her canvases, exposing their strata, and relegates the remnants—the deposits—to the edges where she wipes her palette knives clean. Favoring dense layers and thick impasto over flatness, she searches for the materiality of her medium. The heavy gobs of paint on the surface could be mistaken for pure happenstance, but they are improvisational, happening in the moment and dictated by the process itself.

Marina Rheingantz (b. in 1983 in Araraquara, SP) has held solo shows at Centro Cultural São Paulo (2012) and at Centro Universitário Maria Antônia (2011), among others. Her participation in group shows includes *Projeto Piauí* (at Pivô Arte e Pesquisa, São Paulo, 2016), *Soft Power* (Kunsthal KAdE Amersfoort, the Netherlands, 2016), *Os Muitos e o Um* (*The Many and the One* at Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, 2016), and *No Man's Land – Women Artists from the Rubell Family Collection* (Contemporary Arts Foundation, Miami, 2015). Her work can be found in collections such as the Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, Museu de Arte Moderna de Rio de Janeiro, and Itaú Cultural. Marina Rheingantz is represented by Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel, São Paulo, Brazil and Zeno X, Antwerp, Belgium.