

Light Falls / Dragoș Bădiță

3rd February – 15th March 2017

Curator Cristina Stoenescu

Sunlight burns the retina ever so slightly every time we open our eyes. Seeing is also blindness.

Dragoș Bădiță's artworks create a personal cosmology, both spiritual and profane, a search that is disconnected from science and religion, and sets up an alternative to natural philosophy. He undertakes an artistic search able to redefine the act of discovery as bewilderment.

The exhibition space is flooded at the beginning with referential images, only to later be abandoned to a warm and vibrant darkness. The transitions from diffuse lighting to the lack of thereof, from the burning clarity of an image projected unto blue pigment to flowing ink on paper, make the pupil contract, or loosen its grip in the search of visual details.

The exhibition *Light Falls* presents the series of ink paintings created by the artist during his residency at the *Fjuk Art Centre* in Husavik, Iceland in 2015. The alien landscape opposes familiar imagery from the country house where Dragoș Bădiță spent time growing up. The video installation *Vertigo* (2016) depicts both familiar and discovered spaces, inverting the very notion of ordinary, shuffling the cardinal points of the exhibition. At the same time, the oil on paper works (2016), challenge the eye in Magritte-like sequences, imbued with the fragility of Dragoș Bădiță's artistic style.

The series of oil-on-paper artworks complement the ink landscapes within a compensation game – texture and fluidity, burning colour and flowing ink, illusions born out of visual alliterations and a peaceful loneliness. Each medium allows for other manifestations of light and a different colour vibration. Its wavelength escapes the painterly surface and drowns itself in the gasping eye, in the wondering gaze. The images are profoundly personal, giving way to various interpretations. From the Icelandic landscapes to the sky mirrored in still water, the artworks move between alienation and melancholia, between embracing and letting go, between pre-conditioned perception and monochrome clarity. *For once, then, something.* Until we see.

Even now, while we speak, these branches feed like roots clinging towards the blue soil, from where the light falls, buried now in ourselves, the ones who see the inverse trees.

Partner: Lateral ArtSpace

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Dragoș Bădiță (b. 1987, Horezu, Romania) lives and works in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. He undertook a BA degree in Painting and an MA in Visual Art at the University of Art and Design Cluj-Napoca, Romania, graduating in 2011. His work has been seen in solo exhibitions in Romania and in group shows in Germany, Denmark, Romania, Greece, Spain and Switzerland. His artwork, *Chinese Soup* (2014) is selected by BP Portrait Award, one of the most prestigious portrait exhibitions in the world. He exhibits at National Portrait Gallery/ London/ UK (2015), at Scottish National Portrait Gallery/ Edinburgh, UK (2015) and Ulster Museum/ Belfast, UK (2016). His solo shows include: Lateral ArtSpace/ Cluj-Napoca, Romania (2012 and 2013), Ivan Gallery/ Bucharest, Romania (2009 and 2011). He is present in numerous group exhibitions such as County Museum/ Bistrița-Năsăud, Romania (2016), Alpineum Produzentengalerie/ Lucerne, Switzerland (2014), Salonul de Proiecte/ Bucharest, Romania (2014), Larmi Gallery/ Copenhagen, Denmark (2013), Kunstverein Tiergarten/ Galerie Nord, Berlin, Germany (2013), The Romanian Cultural Institute/ London, UK (2011), CCA Andratx/ Mallorca, Spain (2010), Mie Lefever Gallery/ Gent, Belgium (2009), Artower Hall/ Athens, Greece (2008). He is the co-coordinator of Lateral ArtSpace in Cluj-Napoca.