

## Press Release

Exhibition: *Memories of an unrevealed disaster*

Works by Milena Bonilla, María Isabel Arango, Luisa Ungar and María Isabel Rueda

Curated by Alba Colomo

Opening: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 6.30-8.30pm

Exhibition dates: 29<sup>th</sup> September to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Patrick Heide Contemporary Art is delighted to announce *Memories of an unrevealed disaster*, a collective exhibition curated by Alba Colomo featuring new works by Colombian artists Milena Bonilla, María Isabel Arango, Luisa Ungar and María Isabel Rueda.

These four artists have entangled practices, each addressing common issues from a unique perspective. Drawing is presented as the leitmotif of these four parallel projects, generating a sense of continuity and charting interrelated questions; the representation of landscape, the nature-culture dichotomy, the irreversible effect of humans on planet earth.

Luisa Ungar's work focuses upon animal-human relationships, raising questions about how animals are often treated as objects and examining the language commonly used to refer to, and represent them. *Returning to the Place of Things: Manual for a Performance on Animal Behaviour* is a series of drawings that explores some of the histories and narratives underlying our own animal behaviours. These drawings seek to bridge the representative gap, which exists between human discourse and animal actions. Simultaneously they become scores and choreographic plans for the artist's future performances.

Milena Bonilla's project departs from a series of found images from the Jardin des Plantes' Grand Serres conservatory in Paris where tropical plants are kept and cultivated within a precise artificial environment. A constellation of images and drawings, *The Last Drink is for The Sun*, reflects upon the impossibility and 'failures' of representation of the tropical landscape.

*El Libro de las Hojas* (The book of leaves) is a series of drawings by María Isabel Rueda in which she documents the fallen leaves of a Croton tree in her backyard. Every day for an entire year she has drawn a single leaf, meticulously documenting, reinterpreting and reconstructing the life of this particular tree.

María Isabel Arango has been collecting fragments of dead tree and abandoned bird nests in the forests of Devon (UK) and Medellin (Colombia). This series of drawings and monotypes has been made from pigments made from charred branches, leaves and moss. Both her installation and works on paper are an attempt to evoke the soul of these trees and to tell the stories of the birds that once inhabited the nests.

*Memories of an unrevealed disaster* is accompanied by the text "Relationships", a written contribution to the exhibition by Zoe Todd, Assistant Professor in Anthropology at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Todd researches human-animal and human-environmental relations, Indigenous legal orders and (de)colonial praxis in Canada.

Alba Colomo is a Spanish curator based in the UK, who has recently curated exhibition projects at Centro Cultural Británico in Lima, Peru and Konsthall C in Stockholm, Sweden. She is currently working at Nottingham Contemporary as Assistant Curator of Public Programmes.

*Memories of an unrevealed disaster* discloses a series of clues, fragments and ruins that point towards some uncharted post-apocalyptic landscape. A world that is collapsing without anybody noticing. A future that is already here...