

C
O
N
T
E
N
T
M
A
R
K
E
T
R
A
Y

PRESS RELEASE

Barbara Nicholls

10 May 2022 – 2 July 2022

New Watercolours by Barbara Nicholls (1963, UK)

Sculptures by Francesco Pessina (1946, Italy) and Diogo Pimentão (1973, Portugal)

Patrick Heide Contemporary Art is pleased to present an exhibition featuring latest watercolours by Barbara Nicholls alongside sculptures by Francesco Pessina and Diogo Pimentão.

Barbara Nicholl's work echoes a deep-rooted fascination with nature and its elements. She employs the traditional medium of watercolour to push its boundaries like no other artist.

Nicholl's process often resembles or decodes the geological process and the evolution of natural structures. She lays down sheets of papers on her studio floor, covers parts or the entirety of the surface with water, then adds pigments to the wetted areas. The liquified colour spreads, flows and transforms into small pools and streams emulating landscape formations, water edges, mineral deposits or other textures caused by chemical reactions.

Nicholls art always oscillates between chance and an almost scientific control similar to a laboratory. Nicholls intentionally influences her compositions by moving and angling the papers while simultaneously letting the proliferation, diffusion and layering of the pigments develop over hours and days on its own terms. In her studio domestic appliances such as electric fans and heaters are employed to create artificial micro-climates which accelerate and affect the evaporation process. The microcosms that emerge from these various approaches resemble the macrocosm of our planet's making, a mixture of natural forces and mankind's manipulation of it.

In the *Slip Fault* series Nicholls introduces another process comparable to geological evolution, that of breaking and rearranging. Nicholls cuts her own images and recomposes them as collages with the fault lines shifted or completely deferred, reminiscent of tectonic plates or musical compositions.

Nicholls watercolours possess a strongly physical presence and an obvious connection to stone or gem like structures. To open a conversation on this particular aspect sculptures by Francesco Pessina and Diogo Pimentão are presented in dialogue with the works on paper. By Francesco Pessina a marble sculpture from his iconic Totem series will be on display, by Diogo Pimentão one of his leaning sculptures poignantly combining drawing with concrete. Both sculptures literally ground the exhibition while revealing aspects of flexibility and antagonism in material and conception.