

Arocha + Schraenen

Looking For Clues

29 November 2012 – 13 January 2013

Opening: Thursday, November 29, 7-9pm

ltd los angeles is pleased to present ***Looking for Clues***, the first West Coast exhibition of Carla Arocha and Stéphane Schraenen, featuring a collection of new works. Ninety photographic images chosen out of a data bank built over six years and comprised of approximately 7,000 images, most of which focus on circular objects, a set of digitally printed abstractions and a freestanding sculpture of mirror and colored Plexiglas will be presented.

Within Arocha + Schraenen's practice, simile and facsimile are often central; the nature of an image and its resemblance or remoteness from the perception of that image is of primary concern. Their working process treads a dual path – an invitation to simultaneously lean in to consider the material nature of a work and stand back to experience the impact of a perception that has long since departed from the blueprint of its constituent parts. Their practice might be considered, albeit simplistically, a gestalt: the whole being greater than the sum of the tangential parts. For their work is not what it is, not what it appears to be at first glance. Although their work shares minimalism's formal and aesthetic similarities, their practice investigates the transformation that occurs when traversing from ideas based in neuroscience to more culturally based notions of perception.

In *Looking for Clues*, Arocha + Schraenen continue their playful layering and blurring of what is, in reality, a solid surface and what is only a reflection; thus revealing the dotted lines between Modernism's abstracted approach to representation and human's mimetic instinct to realistically imitate his surroundings. The intention is not for their photographic works to be entirely recognizable as anything specific or as a representational image. Their intention is to create a space in which there is no need to analyze the artistic construction since it remains self-evident as a gestalt. Whatever originally prompted the work is abstract for Arocha + Schraenen. Their formal observance of aesthetic balance, pattern and composition links their works to Modernism as well as ancient geometries. The reduction of their surrounding world into geometric forms or mathematically observant patterns shares a commonality with the Greek motifs such as Key Patterns –or *Meanders*. Inspired by these motifs straddling observations of the natural world with a mathematical credo, their works strive to reconcile the apparent chaos of nature with the rational order of science.

Their practice demands a close attention to the object and the ghost of the object, the matter and the anti-matter. They remind us that art, ever since The Enlightenment has ignored science and rationalism at its own peril. Yet, they do not place a scientific view of the world preeminently over and above truths potentially reached through artistic investigation. Science, after all, constructs a series of complex images to illustrate its tenets, theories and proofs that trickle down through all layers of culture. And yet, as Arocha + Schraenen's work persistently reminds us, any image is susceptible to proving illusory. The universe appears to be mostly made up of nothing, of absence, and that the material and solid surface is an illusion, largely constituted of reflected light.

Recent exhibitions include Künstlerhaus Bethanien (DE); Centro de Arte Caja de Burgos (SP); Vžigalica Gallery of The City Museum of Ljubljana (SI); FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand (FR); BOZAR, Brussels (BE); National Art Museum of China (CH); Espai d'Art Contemporani de Castello (SP); and Centro de Arte Contemporaneo Caracas (VE). Forthcoming exhibitions include Wako Works of Art (JP); St Louis Museum of Contemporary Art (US); and Garage CCM, Mechelen (BE). Arocha + Schraenen live and work in Antwerp, Belgium.