
Geological Norms

(sometimes repeated)

Adrien Missika

GEOLOGICAL NORMS (SOMETIMES REPEATED)

ADRIEN MISSIKA

For immediate release

25 May - 30 July 2011

Preview: Saturday, 21 May, 6 - 9 pm

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday from 12 - 8 pm

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MARZ – Galeria is pleased to announce *Geological Norms (sometimes repeated)*, a solo exhibition by Adrien Missika. The exhibition, the artist's first in Portugal, will preview on Saturday May 21st and will run through July 30th, in parallel with *Thin Air*, a group exhibition of works by Michael Biberstein, Fernando Calhau, Ivan Grubanov and Ana Manso.

Photography, video, sculpture and installation are the mediums of choice of French-born artist Adrien Missika. Often seen as documental in nature, photography and video are perceived as being connected to the existence of objects in the world, given their referential and indexical nature, the photograph ultimately being perceived as a direct emanation of the real. Adrien Missika's image-centred work approaches how viewers perceive images and what they expect of them, playing on spaces between and on the borders of imagination and reality, the plausible and the implausible.

Not only an image maker, Adrien Missika is keen traveller, unable to live under house arrest. He appropriates travel in its myriad of historical and cultural forms – the Grand Tour, the pilgrimage, the walking vacation, travel as escape – gathering footage and visual material for his personal storehouse of “archetypes”: sunsets, grottos, mountain peaks, rock formations, waves, palm trees, architectures and mountain ranges. These images do not purport to recount journeys but are the make-up of a melancholic *récit* that bears multiple readings. According to Gaston Bachelard, “you dream the world before you know it”. Profoundly aware and weary of our depiction of the picturesque and our tendency towards confusing the map with the territory, Adrien Missika's work is intent on reflecting on our experience of the world through images.

As denounced by his Lisbon-exhibition's title, Missika's current show brings further into evidence the artist's allegorical interest in geology and mineralogy as activities of unearthing and classifying matter, which he applies to the everyday and the here and now. In this installation, Missika plays with our perception, meddling with the visual properties of rock and Portuguese blue and white marbled soap, as well as with the taxonomical expectations and deceptions brought about by the exhibition's title.

This exhibition has the generous support of *Sovena* soaps and *The Lisbonaire Apartments*.

Adrien Missika (b. Paris, 1981, lives and works between Berlin and Geneva) is an artist whose work has been presented in venues such as SpazioA Gallery, Pistoia; Coalmine Fotogalerie, Winterthur; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva; Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur; Instituto Svizzero di Roma, Milan. Missika is the co-founder of the project space 1m3 Gallery in Lausanne. He is one of the laureates of the Pro Helvetia *Cahiers d'Artistes* series 2011. The book he has been producing will be presented within the setting of the 2011 *Swiss Art Award* which coincides with Art Basel this June.