

Press release

Michel François | *Déjà-vu (Hallu)*

Special screening: 21 November, 2020, 11 am - 6 pm

carlier | gebauer is pleased to announce a special screening of *Déjà-vu (Hallu)* by Belgian artist Michel François. This event is part of *A Very Brief Eternity*, his seventh solo exhibition with the gallery and his first exhibition at carlier gebauer's Madrid location.

In *Déjà-vu (Hallu)* the artist films his hands applying to crease, fold and unfold an aluminum sheet, creating a perfect artificial symmetry and a split image modelled on the principle of the Rorschach test. The video image of *Déjà-vu (Hallu)* produces symbolic forms, evocative of animal figures, monstrous or fantastic patterns. The hypnotic and clinical dimension is underlined by the title: the term "déjà-vu" or paramnesia designates the feeling of having already experienced a situation. To the clinical dimension of the title, the subtitle adds humor to the pun that agglomerates the material (aluminum) to perception (hallucination).

Michel François' works form an elusive alphabet, the syntax of which shifts according to the site of exhibition and their confrontation with other objects. His practice thereby articulates a web of ever-fluctuating connections and connotations—a permanent work in progress. A rhizomatic logic pervades his artistic production, which resists hierarchies among objects and instead privileges moments of encounter, relation, and contingency. As Deleuze and Guattari write of the rhizome, François' ephemeral installations are "always in the middle, between things, interbeing, intermezzo."

Michel François (b.1956, Saint-Trond) lives and works in Brussels. Among countless international exhibitions, he has presented projects at the Havana Biennial (2015), the Belgian Pavilion at the 48th Venice Biennale (1999), the 22nd São Paulo Biennial (1994) and documenta IX in Kassel (1992). He has had solo exhibitions at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham; Dia Center for the Arts, New York; S.M.A.K., Ghent; Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona; Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, Haus der Kunst, Munich. He has participated in group exhibitions at venues such as Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro; Tapei Fine Art Museum, Taipei; Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz; Jeu de Paume, Paris; Haus der Kunst, Munich; Centre Pompidou, Paris; and Fondation Hermès, Brussels.