

Michel François

A Very Brief Eternity

Exhibition at carlier | gebauer, Madrid, 2020

Press release

Michel François | *A Very Brief Eternity*

10 September – 31 October 2020

Opening days: during Apertura

10–12 September, 2020

carlier | gebauer is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of new work by Belgian artist Michel François. This is his seventh exhibition with the gallery and his first exhibition at carlier gebauer's Madrid location.

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.”

François' practice often recycles forms and materials as a means of foregrounding how we make and unmake our world, reflecting how we transform matter into meaning. For *A Very Brief Eternity*, his first solo exhibition in Madrid, François will present his installation *Retenue d'eau* [Water Retainment] alongside the work *Instant Drawing*. A suspended sculpture featuring nearly three-hundred ink-filled bags counteracts a cube of charred wood fixed to a white wall, which blocks the end of a thick charcoal line. With their humble materials, which contain fleeting traces of human action, these works articulate latent spaces of possibility and transformation.

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.

Michel François, Retenue d'encre, 1999
Plastic, water, ink, nylon, aluminium
dimensions variable, unique
Exhibition view at carlier | gebauer, Madrid, 2020

carlier | gebauer





Michel François, Retenue d'encre, 1999
Plastic, water, ink, nylon, aluminium
dimensions variable, unique
Exhibition view at carlier | gebauer, Madrid, 2020



Michel François, Retenue d'encre - detail, 1999
Plastic, water, ink, nylon, aluminium, dimensions variable, unique

carlier | gebauer



Michel François

left: Retenue d'encre, 1999
Plastic, water, ink, nylon, aluminium
dimensions variable, unique

right on the wall: Instant Drawings, 2020
2 Burnt wooden cube
dimensions variable (40 x 422 x 40 cm each)
unique edition

Exhibition view at carlier | gebauer, Madrid, 2020

carlier | gebauer



Michel François, Instant Drawings, 2020

2 Burnt wooden cube, dimensions variable (40 x 422 x 40 cm each), unique edition

Exhibition view at carlier | gebauer, Madrid, 2020



Michel François, Instant Drawings - detail, 2020
2 Burnt wooden cube, dimensions variable (40 x 422 x 40 cm each), unique edition
Exhibition view at carlier | gebauer, Madrid, 2020



Michel François

left on the wall: Instant Drawings, 2020
2 Burnt wooden cube
dimensions variable (40 x 422 x 40 cm each)
unique edition

right: Retenue d'encre, 1999
Plastic, water, ink, nylon, aluminium
dimensions variable, unique

Exhibition view at carlier | gebauer, Madrid, 2020

carlier | gebauer