

PRESS RELEASE

BLACK CUBE

INVOLUCRUM

Alexandra Leyre Mein

Exhibition: 01 February > 09 March 2019

Opening: Thursday 31 January - 6 > 9 pm

The gallery will be closed during ART ROTTERDAM (06 > 10 February)

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Life, people or civilizations can be damaged or destroyed, but change and adjustment find a way to reconstruction to a similar or different form of what was. *Involucrum* refers to this renewal or transformation, such as new bone that grows around the broken part. The works presented in this exhibition allow the viewer to ponder the transience of what is taken for granted and deemed irrefutable.

Time and influences change, world powers shift, this is portrayed in the work *Imperial System*, referring to the units of measurement that were used after 1824 in the British Empire and its sphere of influence. Embedded in the work *Imperial System*, is a ruler with divisions in inches which, together with the architectural elements and the glass, merges with the torso of the classical sculpture. This work was also made in the former British colony, namely in New York, USA.

The oxidation of elements, such as rust, is like a revelation of the test of time. The work *Velamen*, delicate draped silk, refers to the flag as a symbol of nations but also to a shroud that reverberates the idea of the elapsed time.

Finally, there is the sculpture *Stirring Reflection* in which the viewer sees his own reflection and gets anchored in the present.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Alexandra Leyre Mein works capture the everlasting battle between human unconscious desires and the intellectual self. She translates these themes into figurative or abstract sculptures that are both contemporary and yet seem to come from another age. Movement and tension emerges from the encounter between organic forms and clean, pristine, edged shapes in her plaster sculptures, symbolizing human nature and its societal/environmental interactions. These complex relationships are portrayed using multifaceted sculptural forms, each facet exposing a unique perspective. The characteristic unfinished aspect of her sculptures reinforces the feeling of movement, as in a three-dimensional sketch. They can be interpreted as if still in construction and growing, although they might also be seen as being at the dawn of their demise. This duality of interpretation is central to her work.

Alexandra Leyre Mein (Brussels, Belgium 1979) graduated at the fashion department at the Royal Academy of Antwerp. From 2008 onwards she focused on sculpting. Her work has since been presented in solo and collective exhibitions, including in Palais d'Iéna, Paris (FR) - White House Gallery, Lovenjoel (BE) - Aeroplastics - Maison Particulière - Botanique, Brussels (BE) - Léon De Smet museum, Deurle (BE) - Numthong Gallery, Bangkok (TH) - Clemente Center - New House Center for Contemporary Art - Anton Kern Gallery, New York (USA) - The Growlery, San Francisco (USA). Besides her sculptural practice, Alexandra continues to work with dancers and choreographers. She has designed and made sets and costumes in collaboration with e.g., Damien Jalet. These creations have been shown at Palazzo Fortuny, during the Venice Biennial (IT), the festival d'Avignon, and at the Louvre (FR). During her six-year stay in NYC she founded *absence projects* for which she curates exhibitions focused on sculpture.



ALEXANDRA LEYRE MEIN

IMPERIAL SYSTEM (DETAIL)
2017

Hydrstone, mesh wire, cheesecloth, metal pigments, verre, imperial system ruler
81 x 42 x 50 cm
Unique

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Archiraar Gallery was founded in 2012 by Alexis Rastel. As an architect, he joins his spatial practice with artistic research. The Gallery represents artists from the upcoming generation and plans on long time collaborations. It shows paintings, drawings, sculptures, pictures, videos and installations.

The Gallery's White Cube was opened in Brussels in 2013. Ideology of a neutral space, this volume of 3x3x9 meters questions our contemporary habits of showing art. The Black Cube, opened in 2014, is its complementary space. Its enclosed space suggests an intimate perception of the work. Between 2013 and 2018, with parallel solo shows, artists represented by the gallery have shown in both spaces.

Starting 2016, the Gallery will be intersecting the spaces' programs and inviting curators and artists to participate in group shows. In addition, the Gallery publishes and promotes artists' works. With each show, Archiraar houses resonating artistic projects.

NEXT ART FAIRS

ART ROTTERDAM

Duo show by Roman Moriceau & Takahiro Kudo

06 > 10 February 2019 - Van Nelle Fabriek

ARCHIRAAR GALLERY

WHITE CUBE - Rue de la Tulipe 31A Tulpstraat - 1050 Brussels - Belgium

BLACK CUBE - Rue de la Tulipe 35A Tulpstraat - 1050 Brussels - Belgium

Thursday > Saturday - 1 > 6 pm

And by appointment

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