

Félicie d'Estienne d'Orves

The Sorbonne Artgallery hosts a selection of nine original images from spatio-temporal explorations of Félicie d'Estienne d'Orves in the Atacama desert (Chile) and in the Bonneville salt desert (Utah - US). There, the artist is lasering a real-time activity of cosmic space. Images, if they seem to superimpose a virtual reality on real physical objects, literally project our thought into the sky. By a subtle synergy between her observations and her control of the effects of light on our immediate environment, Félicie d'Estienne d'Orves contextualizes a singular perception of our cosmographic environment. The research-creation work she has begun alongside astrophysicist Fabio Acero is an undeniable driver of this new series of the artist. The visualization of the data of reality that leads to it gives us the opportunity to question our intimate relationship to cosmic space.

"Walking the desert is the physical experience of the relationship on the horizon. The further we go, the more he moves back. Those of Atacama and Bonneville are enriched by a nocturnal horizon that offers the naked eye a detailed image of the cosmos, a sky covered with thousands of celestial objects. The apparent proximity of the luminous points is misleading, some celestial objects are close (some light-years) others are at several thousand AL of the Earth.

The gaze which is given to a reading of this celestial vault dissolves little by little in the multiple temporalities of the visible stars. It is this paradox that I explore between the Euclidean desert scale and current models of the universe. In ephemeral land art installations, I use light vectors (laser pointers) to highlight perspectives, spatial and temporal connections between celestial and geographic coordinates.

On sites where the clear horizon allows to establish a visual balance between the plane of the ground and that of the sky. The laser becomes a tool to direct the gaze on celestial objects in the white page of the desert. The laser, modern ruler of the surveyors (laser stallion), is a way to position oneself in the cosmos.

This large-scale drawing tool allows me to establish spatial relationships according to sites with light as interface.

The dense and straight laser beam defies the perception of space by its range and gives the sensation of "touching" at a distance. The repeated actions of the series "Cosmographies", connect the sky and the earth by geometric combinations and architectures ephemeral sculptures of light between near objects and the deep sky. At a given moment and in a given place, the lines of light make manifest relations of simultaneities between the continuous movement of the Earth and that of the cosmos. The series of photographs highlights a suspension of time between these two immensities.



COSMOGRAPHIES, 23°11'14"S, 68°0'16"W / SIRIUS
(NOV. 13TH, 2016 - 2 a.m. - Alt : 2500 M)

Félicie d'Estienne d'Orves, born in Athens in 1979, lives and works in Paris.

Mixing light, sculptures and new technologies, the work of Félicie d'Estienne d'Orves questions the process of vision and the conditioning of the gaze. His installations appeal to a phenomenological knowledge of the real, they emphasize the perception of time in a continuous movement. Since 2014, the artist focuses his research on astrophysical space and the study of natural light cycles.

In 2012, on an order from the City of London, she realized her first installation of lasers "Geometry", a sculpture of motorized mirrors that projected drawings of elementary geometries in the skies of London. As a result of this project, she imagines continuing this project in the more radical context of the Atacama desert, in land art. It begins in 2014, a collaboration with the field recording musician Julie Rousse, around the project of land art in Atacama. Their first performance "EXO" (Nuit Blanche de Paris - 2015), is a laser installation that reads the sky like a score of music. They combine the light of lasers projected towards hundreds of celestial objects, stars, planets, black holes, pulsars, GRB ... to an electroacoustic composition of the musician.



COSMOGRAPHIES, 23°08'14"S, 68°14'6"W / PLÉIADES
(NOV. 8TH, 2016 - 11 p.m. - Alt : 2500 M)