

Galerie Jocelyn Wolff

PABLO VARGAS LUGO

Mont Papillon

June 29 – August 3, 2013

Opening: June 29, 2013

Gallery exchange with Labor, Mexico city

For his first solo in Paris, Pablo Vargas Lugo presents a group of works that focus upon his interest in butterfly wing patterns, more specifically those that can be found in the diverse ecosystems of the slopes of the Andean mountains as they descend into the plains of the Amazon river.

For the artist, each of these patterns is not only the result of an evolutionary process, but also an expression of the conditions of a territory. In his ongoing series of gouaches, and under the overall title *New Vexillology*, P.V.L translates the wing patterns of different species into the format of a flag. Once the design is ready it is given to a seamstress who makes an actual flag, which is then shot on video flapping in the wind. Each one of these videos is part of a larger project titled *Mariposario* in which dozens of these flags will fly in unison, as the banners of indefinite territories.

One can think about the multiple allegories based on the Lepidoptera, however the focus of Pablo Vargas Lugo's work is guided by a process of objectivation: by maintaining a naturalist approach (respect for the elements in the patterns and their natural colors), he engages in the translation of organic forms into a culturally connoted format. Each step he takes puts further distance between the small animal living in the forest and the art modelled after it. In *Mont Papillon (Lepiokirbyia venigera)* the wing pattern is subjected to a sculptural process. The artist grows a mountain out of the design by applying successive layers of marble dust and pigments. The slow accumulation of the colored dust results in varying cliffs, crevices and slopes. If this mountain were to collapse or erode, the pattern would remain to be seen, contradicting the conventional wisdom about the ephemerality of these insects.

Born in 1968 in Mexico City, Pablo Vargas Lugo studied at the Escuela Nacional de Artes Plásticas at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Amongst his most important exhibitions are *Intemperie* (2012) at El Museo Experimental El Eco, Mexico City; *Expected / Unexpected* at the Maison Rouge (2008), Paris; *Eclipses for Austin* (2009) Blanton Museum of Art, Austin; *Congo Bravo* (1998) at Museo Carrillo Gil in Mexico City. In 2014 his work will be exhibited at the Museo Amparo, the Museo Tamayo and The Queens Museum of Art in New York.

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