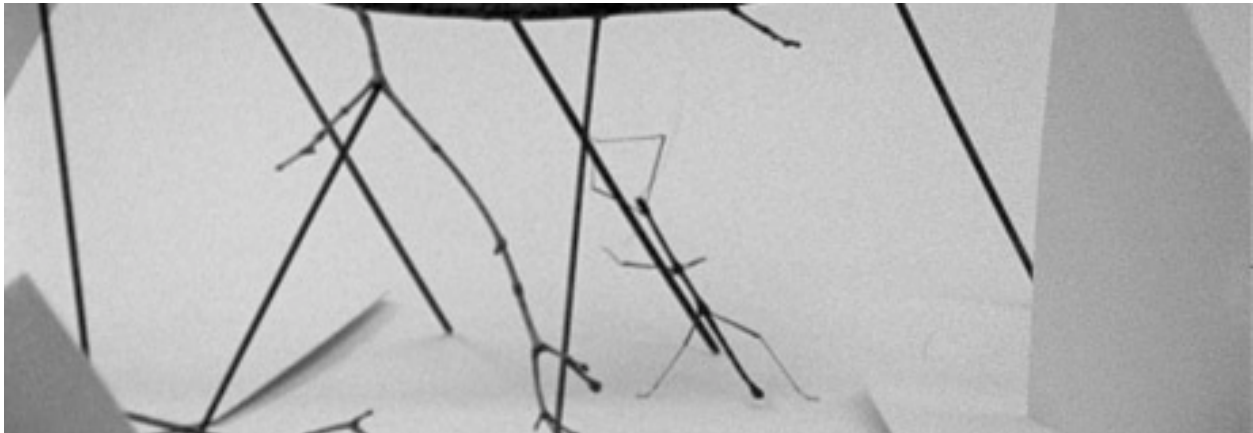


DANIEL STEEGMANN MANGRANÉ
PHASMIDES

APRIL 6 THRU 27, 2013

OPENING: SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 6PM – 10PM



Mendes Wood DM is delighted to present "Phasmides", Catalan artist Daniel Steegmann Mangrané's second solo show at the gallery. His new body of work explores ideas of drawing, abstraction, geometry, corporality and immateriality. At the heart of the exhibition is Phasmides, a 16mm film that follows a family of stick insects camouflaged in a complex, geometric set designed by the artist. In a series of highly abstract shots, wherein the insects' silhouettes appear and disappear, Steegmann Mangrané intimates the instability and the fragility of the cinematic image. Over the course of the film, geometric forms become organic and organic forms reveal their geometry; the living bodies seem inanimate and the inanimate latent with life.

A small group of holograms and paintings hung in the main space further explore these ideas. This odd integration of elements is surprisingly suave, as branches and insects blend seamlessly into geometric compositions, investigating a relationship between Abstraction and nature. The recurrent figure of the stick insect evokes the possibility of an organism's integration with its environment; this integration is not only perfectly expressed in the phasmida's anatomy, but also in its behavior.

The evolutionary process through which animals camouflage themselves is called crypsis, from the Greek *krypticos* meaning "fit for concealing", which implies that which is hidden in plain sight. In his Essay "Mimicry and Legendary Psychasthenia", philosopher Roger Caillois suggests that contrary to popular belief, animals blend into their surroundings not to protect themselves, but rather out of a mythological desire to dissolve into the world.

By bringing together the phasmida and the abstract composition, Steegmann Mangrané aestheticizes biological function and naturalizes art. In "Phasmides" a quasi-invisible agent reveals points of contact between organic and aesthetic systems. When these creatures are hidden from us, we can only imagine it is because of a secret will to be unified with the artwork. When these creatures reveal themselves, they release the magic of visibility and open our vision to the generative force of life itself, overwhelming distinctions between nature and art. This brings to mind a remark of Paul Klee, that abstractionist so close to the heart of nature, "Art does not reproduce the visible. It makes visible."

Daniel Steegmann Mangrané's (Barcelona, 1977) recent solo shows include Phasmides, Mendes Wood, São Paulo; Cipó, Taioaba, Yví, Casa França Brasil, Rio de Janeiro; Duna económica / Maqueta sin calidad, Halfhouse, Barcelona; FOUR WALLS, Mendes Wood, São Paulo; Espaço Cultural Municipal Sérgio Porto, Rio de Janeiro; Equal (cut), Ateliê 397, São Paulo; Fundació La Caixa, Lleida.

His work has been also featured at the grup shows: 30^a São Paulo Biennial, The Imminence of Poetics, São Paulo; Ambiguações, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro; Yemanjá Claus, Diana Stigter galerie, Amsterdam; Pindorama Suit, Rongwrong, Amsterdam; Belvedere, Estrany · De la Mota, Barcelona; Espai d'Art Contemporani de Castelló, Castelló; Forgotten Bar Project, Galerie im Riegerungsviertel, Berlin; Miragem (Sempre à vista), Mendes Wood, São Paulo Upcoming shows include Galeria Nuno Centeno, Porto; Centro de Arte 2 de Mayo, Madrid; Museo Experimental el Eco, Mexico DF; Werkleitz 2013, Halle.

Matthew Wood