

JOSEF STRAU

your clouds your hair your laketown

16.11 – 21.12.2024



dépendance

# dépendance

## PRESS RELEASE

dépendance is pleased to announce *your clouds your hair your laketown*, the fourth solo exhibition of Josef Strau at the gallery.

Strau is known for his evocative, dream-like explorations of urban landscapes and metaphysical themes. This exhibition, curated with text contributions from Katharina Hölzl, brings Strau's surreal reflections on clouds, memories, and transformations to the forefront, exploring the interplay of art, reality, and metaphor.

Josef Strau's work is a unique fusion of auto-fictional narrative and a meticulous approach to materiality, presenting a space where text and object are inextricably entwined. His installations transform the gallery into a site where text is not simply observed but experienced, extending beyond literary boundaries to become a physical presence.

The exhibition delves into the layering of cloud techniques, drawing parallels between their ephemeral nature and the act of creation itself. Strau presents "clouds of the day" as dynamic subjects, painted in shifting detail that zooms between expansive panoramas and intimate abstractions. These paintings — described as "cloud capriccios" — reimagine the 18th-century capriccio style, where disparate landscapes or architectural elements were fantastically collaged into harmonious compositions. This technique enables Strau to expand beyond mere depiction, creating imaginative renderings that speak to both personal and collective consciousness. The result is a whimsical yet profound commentary on the transient beauty of both clouds and human creativity.

Drawing on the alchemical transformation of materials like melted tin into "magnetic splatters," the works evoke a sense of ruin and renewal. These cloudscapes transcend mere representation, offering reflections on change and the inevitability of entropy while celebrating the beauty of the present moment. Like Robert Ryman's white paintings or Agnes Martin's grids, what initially appears as an austere simplicity gives way to a nuanced engagement with materials.

"Clouds pass by like letters without a sender, without a receiver, without a message," writes Katharina Hölzl. "Yet, they arrive with infinite possibilities, speaking a sponge-like language that absorbs and releases meaning."

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Josef Strau lives and works in Vienna. He had solo exhibitions at Secession, Vienna; Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf; The Renaissance Society, Chicago and MUDAM, Luxembourg among others. His work was included in group exhibitions at Kunsthalle Bern; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen, the Liverpool Biennial and the Busan Biennale. His work is part of the collections of Centre Pompidou, Paris; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; mumok, Vienna; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles and the ZKM Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe.



# dépendance



**Josef Strau**

**Your Cloud**

2024

Sulfur, tin, pencil, acrylic, stone magnets on linen

80 x 100 x 3 cm

31 1/2 x 39 3/8 x 1 1/8 in

(DEP-JS-0039)

HR Image:

[view large image](#)



Informational text panel on the left wall, containing multiple columns of text and a small image at the bottom.



# dépendance



**Josef Strau**

**Your hair**

2024

inkjet print on paper, unique, framed

37,5 x 46,2 x 2,5 cm

14,76 x 18,2 x 0,98 in

(DEP-JS-0048)

HR Image:

[view large image](#)





# dépendance

**Josef Strau**

**Small Rilke Big Rilke**

2024

mixed materials, lamp, table, 2 parts

215 x 60 x 70 cm / 84 5/8 x 23 5/8 x 27 1/2 in (big piece)

68 x 30 x 33 cm / 26 3/4 x 11 3/4 x 13 in (small piece)

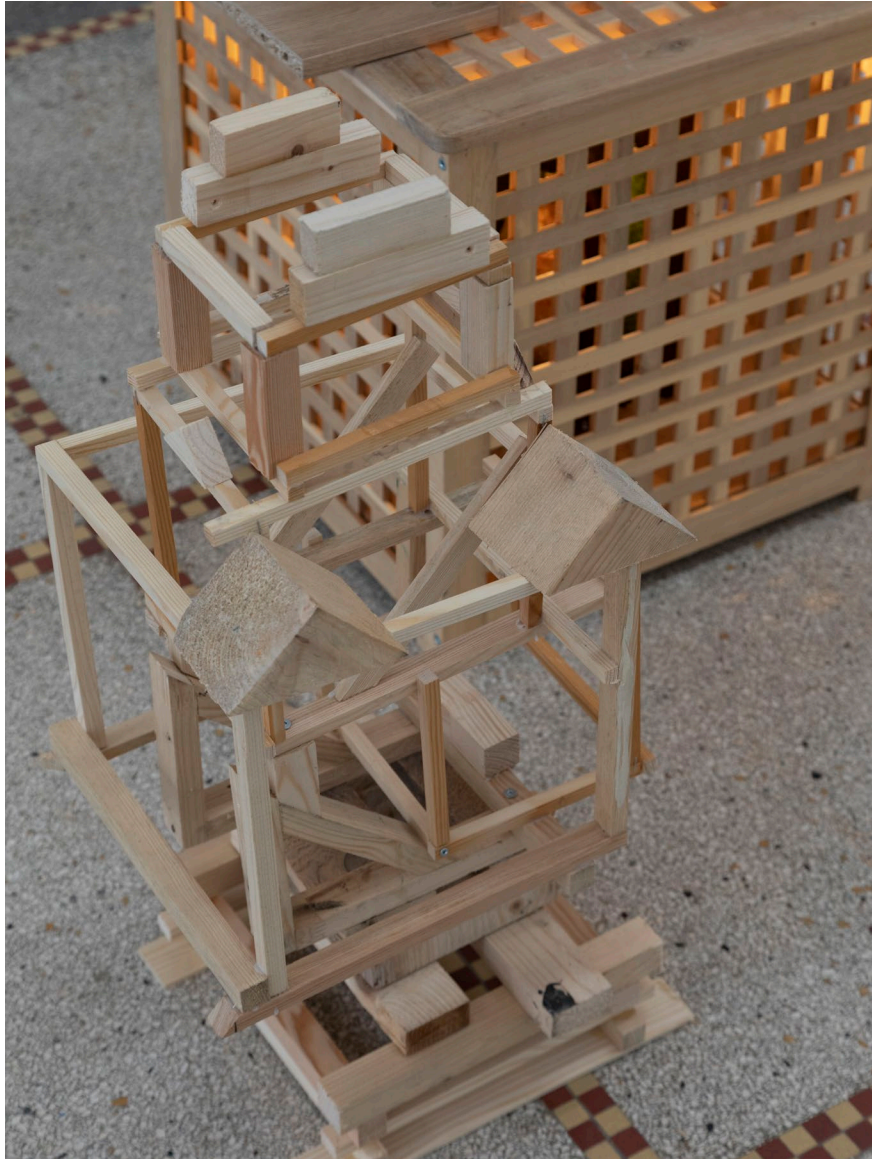
(DEP-JS-0046)

HR Image:

[view large image](#)



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**Josef Strau**  
**Side Table Lamp Hypostatic**  
2024  
mixed materials, lamp  
115 x 80 x 70 cm  
45,28 x 31,50 x 27,56 in  
(DEP-JS-0047)

HR Image:  
[view large image](#)







# dépendance



**Josef Strau**

**Magnet Clouds**

2024

Sulfur, tin, pencil, acrylic, stone magnets on linen

120 x 140 x 3.5 cm

47 1/4 x 55 1/8 x 1 3/8 in

(DEP-JS-0043)

HR Image:

[view large image](#)













# dépendance



**Josef Strau**

**Your laketown**

2024

inkjet print on paper, unique, framed

37,5 x 46,2 x 2,5 cm

14,76 x 18,2 x 0,98 in

(DEP-JS-0049)

HR Image:

[view large image](#)

the Rilke Redemption

the Canaletto sky

clouds

sun, stop

clouds, stop

clouds stop with hypostaticisms

magnetism

haecceity

(thisness)

we redeem from hate

we redeemed from Rilke hate

haecceity is the zoomzoom

to zoom clouds maybe, maybe love, love

solace

there are other things  
a poem by Rilke

Rilke, your hair, your clouds,

your lake city

it is not Rilke

it is this Prague

in this Rilke

the possession he wanted to destroy  
but never could

the idols of tin figures

the zinn of his mother

the tin everywhere holding his  
memories

he wished to burn and melt

looking for the sun

the tin memories

that he named Prague

but what if he would have  
gotten rid of it

what if his harlequin erased

charming the harlequin







# dépendance



**Josef Strau**

**Sponge**

2024

Sulfur, tin, pencil, acrylic, stone magnets on linen

140 x 150 x 3.5 cm

55 1/8 x 59 x 1 3/8 in

(DEP-JS-0044)

HR Image:

[view large image](#)

# dépendance



**Josef Strau**

**Fortress Cloud**

2024

Sulfur, tin, pencil, acrylic, stone magnets on linen

60 x 80 x 3 cm

23 5/8 x 31 1/2 x 1 1/8 in

(DEP-JS-0036)

HR Image:

[view large image](#)







# dépendance



**Josef Strau**

**Aurora Clouds**

2024

Sulfur, tin, pencil, acrylic, stone magnets on linen

120 x 100.5 x 3.5 cm

47 1/4 x 39 5/8 x 1 3/8 in

(DEP-JS-0040)

HR Image:

[view large image](#)









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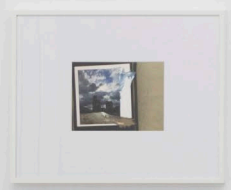
**Josef Strau**  
**Hair Clouds**

2024  
sulfur, tin, pencil, acrylic, stone magnets on linen  
80 x 100 x 3 cm  
31 1/2 x 39 3/8 x 1 1/8 in  
(DEP-JS-0045)

HR Image:  
[view large image](#)







# dépendance



**Josef Strau**

**Wolke Halt**

2024

Sulfur, tin, pencil, acrylic, stone magnets on linen

120 x 140 x 3.5 cm

47 1/4 x 55 1/8 x 1 3/8 in

(DEP-JS-0042)

HR Image:

[view large image](#)

# dépendance



**Josef Strau**

**Your clouds**

2024

inkjet print on paper, unique, framed

37,5 x 46,2 x 2,5 cm

14,76 x 18,2 x 0,98 in

(DEP-JS-0050)

HR Image:

[view large image](#)

dépendance

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Sat, 12 – 6 pm

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Current Exhibitions

**JOSEF STRAU**

16.11 – 21.12.2024

**VIEW: GENOVEVA FILIPOVIC**

16.11 – 14.12.2024