

100 Bell Towers
4846 Rue St. Urbain
Montreal QC
H2T 2W2

Max Keene

Location, Location, Location

6 July 2025 - 30 August 2025

Before the image was an image it was a trick of the mind.

I supply the reel and let it run, casually running my fingers along the film as it spins, coiling like a snake on the platter. Thousands of images loop through the machinery, picking up speed and becoming one fluid stream of frames per second—rotation is the image's fundamental motion. I neatly, deftly perform the final adjustments of my equipment, smiling at the quality of my own work, whispering to myself: framing, check; focus, check; sound, check. I'm creating pathways from perception to processing; I'm in control of the image-making object; *I'm on my mad scientist shit right now.*

You can always hear the image before you can see it: the tinny whirring, clicking and buzzing as teeth sink into sprocket holes and gears spin around and around and around and—*you get the idea.* Hollywood Executives are waging a war on my symphony but, like I've always said: everything is about customer satisfaction. What they want is the unimaginable universe, the appearance of a world before the world in 4K. What they want is: an impossible perspective, a dimensional shift. Or: to see everything at eye-level. They want to be transported to another world and think, smugly, that *the photography was striking but the plot really fell apart in the third act.*

Once, listening to some fancy professor talk about projectors, I misheard lens for limbs. I confused the body with the machine. I imagined my neck extending into a technocrane, my wide-angle over the city, my bird's eye view descending into a close-up. The image-making object becomes the object-making image, conjuring up a third dimension through the confluence of two, separate and distinct perspectives. It's all about perception. It's like I said: before the image was an image it was a trick of the mind.

- text by Kate Nugent

La Ronde, 2025

A Pane of Glass Breaking Over and Over, 2025