

## **PERLINI ARTE**

[Riviera San Benedetto, 56](#)

[35139 PADOVA \(IT\)](#)

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**MICHELLE-MARIE LETELIER**

**DOOMED SCAPE**



Curated by Carolina Lio

From September 29th to October 14th, 2012

Opening: Saturday 29th September, 18.30 Hr.

## **PRESS RELEASE**

On Saturday 29th September at 18:30 hrs., Perlini Arte opens the first solo exhibition of the artist Michelle-Marie Letelier in Europe, who has been awarded a first edition of ORA prize. The project, curated by Carolina Lio, will present some of the most recent works created by the Berlin-based Chilean artist.

Using a variety of media; installation, photography, video and drawing, Michelle-Marie Letelier studies landscapes that are subjected to exploitation of mineral resources. Through her work, she has documented social change, and more recently focused on topographic changes, observing the consequences of exploitation in the area. This theme began with the biographical story of the artist who has spent a few years in Chuquicamata, Chile, home of the largest open-pit copper mine in the world. This period has been documented by video and photographs, underlining an atmosphere of loneliness and abandonment, throwing into question the emptiness created by the expansion of the progressive mine, which in reaching the city has forced it to depopulate and die.

When moving to Berlin, the work of Michelle-Marie Letelier was merged with coal, a mineral connected to the history of Germany, the atmosphere of the old East Berlin and some of its landscapes now desolated and filled with industrial buildings from the years prior to the war. This mineral, with its fascinating contrast between the black of the material and the ability to produce energy and light, has transformed her work into a game of light and shadow, black and white. An example can be seen in the F60 series, two pieces of which will be shown on this occasion. The series consists of works on canvas that are named after the converter bridge F60 located in Lichterfeld, Germany. This bridge has the distinction of being the second largest mining machine in the world, with a weight of 11,000 tons, but it was closed only thirteen months after its opening due to new energy policies. For the artist, it is a symbol of renovation of the world's way of thinking about energy, a theme that is also the basis of her latest work.

In "Energeia", several meanings of the word *energy* are conjugated—politics, science and economics with its strict dependence on the development of Western culture. The choice of the title itself, written in Greek, refers to land-cradle of our culture. The work consists of pieces of coal attached to copper plates in which old technical drawings from a factory of the GDR are transferred as modern electronic boards.

The vision of the artist can be primarily synthesized by "Doomed scape", the title of which lends its name to this exhibition. Based on a dream, the work is a metaphor for the exploitation of natural resources in the economic-industrial capitalist era; the wrecking machine digging a basin, which grows ever larger, eventually effecting the core of the machine itself, and its consequent destruction. "Doomed scape" stands as a clear reminder of a savage exploitation that raids itself, sucking greedily at natural resources and consequently heading towards a failed future.

The exhibition will be open until October 14th, 2012.

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Opening hours: Monday to Saturday, 10.00-13.00 and 15.30-19.30.

Show in collaboration with ORA award.