

FERNANDO MASELLI

Infinito Artificial

5 June – 26 July 2019

Fernando Maselli (Buenos Aires, 1978) is showing his work in Madrid for the very first time as part of PHotoEspaña 2019's Festival Off with his series entitled *Infinito Artificial*. This work, exhibited in its entirety, has been shown previously at the Museum of the University of Navarra, at the Sala of the University of Cádiz as well as at SCAN Tarragona, Fotonoviembre and the Guernsey Photography Festival.

Maselli's work revolves around the aesthetics of the sublime and the element of fear that is contained within the beauty of rugged landscapes. His work is a lonely journey towards immensity, containing many references to classical painting, literature, philosophy and aesthetics.

The sublime is an aesthetic category described as a controlled fear that draws in the soul. It is strongly present in qualities such as immensity, infinity, emptiness, loneliness or silence. It expresses a feeling of pain, anguish or fear, together with the consciousness of our own insignificance, further highlighted by immensity or chaos. Maselli takes some of these qualities to develop his own idea of the sublime. To achieve this, the artist spends several days bivouacking in high mountains and capturing the same mountain range from several angles. Later, in his studio, he puts these pieces together in a different way to create a new, imagined landscape. Each of these compositions, the result of the union of many photographs, maintains the key element in the concept of the sublime; namely that of immensity. In order to reach these impossible places, Maselli completed several mountaineering courses and trained for a year to be able to make these ascents alone.

The series *Infinito Artificial* is both a conceptual and a physical work. The artist experiences nature at its purest first hand, in places where the sublime is at its truest. And it is through this physical experience of the sublime that he can portray this concept to the viewer through an invented landscape.

Festival OFF

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