

Teresita Fernández

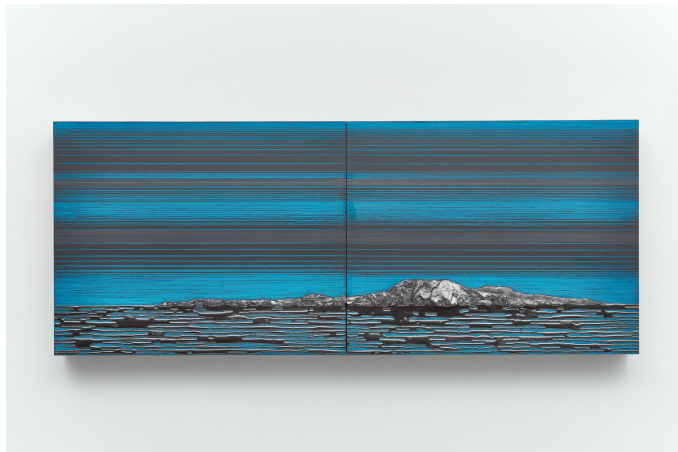
Rise and Fall

October 26—December 16, 2017

407 Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Hong Kong

@lehmannmaupin | #teresitafernandez | #riseandfall

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 26, 6-8 PM



Rise and Fall #10, 2017, solid graphite and pencil on wood panel, 16 x 40 in, 40.6 x 101.6 cm. Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong.

Hong Kong, DATE, 2017—Lehmann Maupin is pleased to present ***Rise and Fall***, an immersive installation of recent works by **Teresita Fernández**. For the artist's second Hong Kong exhibition, Fernández will debut 24 solid graphite and pencil landscapes as an immersive installation. The relief panels, depicting the rise and fall of the tide and shifting horizon lines, are densely arranged on graphite-colored walls where Fernández has extended the blue-hued images by drawing directly on the wall surface. The result is a site-specific installation with thousands of blue horizon lines that rise and fall, surrounding the viewer. The title of the show, *Rise and Fall*, is also a reference to how this term is used to describe the rhythm and swinging pendulum of power and social movements throughout

history. **The gallery will host an opening reception for the artist on Thursday, October 26, from 6-8 PM at the Pedder Building.**

Fernández has long questioned the traditional genre of landscape through abstracted interpretations of the land where history and materials mined from the ground are layered, becoming what she refers to as “stacked landscapes” that suggest being in more than one place at one time. Fernández often uses materials physically extracted from the topography they depict, creating experiential environments that disorient and complicate the idea of place by asking viewers to locate themselves both physically, historically, and metaphorically within the works. Large-scale projects such as her monumental *Fata Morgana* (2015) in New York City's Madison Square Park, composed of a mirrored canopy that reflected and refracted the tens of thousands of pedestrians who traveled daily beneath the suspended artwork, demonstrate her unique approach to the genre. Fernández explains: “I'm interested in the idea that you are an extension of the landscape, that you are a part of it and it is a part of you. You look at the landscape, but it also looks back at you.”

Graphite has been elemental in Fernández's practice. Her research on the history and origin of pencils led her to a graphite mine in Borrowdale, England, where the material was first discovered and mined in the 16th century. This rural site of subterranean raw graphite is the source from which pencils were historically first made, which crystallized the concept for Fernández of a drawing that is both dimensional material, actual place, and drawn image. Through her meticulous reconsideration of place and perception, both personal and cultural, Fernández leverages natural materials such as graphite to create works that reflect their own origins. This method of

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artmaking invites an expansive understanding of landscape, as well as the greater cultural and historic implications of depicting the natural world.

The work in *Rise and Fall* expands upon this premise, using raw graphite and pencil to create luminous scenes. The mountainous horizon separating water and sky is a reference to island geography, such as that of Hong Kong. The articulation of the landscape in this series appears dipped in a metallic liquid, an effect of the unadulterated graphite used by Fernández that is reminiscent of artist Robert Rauschenberg's *Pour* works, whom Fernández has cited as reference. In those works, Rauschenberg used viscous materials like glue or concrete to cascade over a landscape, treating the earth itself as a canvas. *Rise and Fall* can thus be read within this art historical context as both landscape painting and land art, an amplifying of the term "landscape" that Fernández continues to explore.

About the artist

Teresita Fernández (b. 1968, Miami, FL; lives in Brooklyn, NY) received her MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and her BFA from Florida International University. She is a 2005 MacArthur Foundation fellow and the recipient of many prestigious awards, including a Guggenheim fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts artist's grant, an American Academy in Rome affiliated fellowship, and a Louis Comfort Tiffany biennial award. Appointed by President Obama, Fernández served from 2011-2014 on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, a federal panel that advises the president, Congress, and governmental agencies on national matters of design and aesthetics. Fernández's commissions include large site-specific installations at the Benesse Art Site, Naoshima, Japan; the Seattle Art Museum for the Olympic Sculpture Park; Madison Square Park, NY; Grace Farms Foundation in New Canaan, CT; and Louis Vuitton, Shanghai and Paris. Fernández's works are included in many prominent collections and have been exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally at The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX; MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA; Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy; Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Spain; and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia.

About Lehmann Maupin

Founded in 1996 by partners Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin has fostered the careers of a diverse group of internationally renowned artists, both emerging and established, working in multiple disciplines and across varied media. With three locations—two in New York and one in Hong Kong—the gallery represents artists from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, Lehmann Maupin presents work highlighting personal investigations and individual narratives through conceptual approaches that often address such issues as gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Mary Corse, through October 7, 2017, West 22nd Street, NEW YORK

Mr., *Floating in the Air in the Vicinity of a Convenience Store*, through October 21, 2017, Pedder Building, HONG KONG

Gilbert & George, *THE BEARD PICTURES*, October 12—December 22, 2017, West 22nd Street & 201 Chrystie Street, NEW YORK

Robin Rhode, January 11—February 24, 2018, West 22nd Street, NEW YORK

Alex Prager, January 18—March 17, 2018, Pedder Building, HONG KONG

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For more information about Teresita Fernández or other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Marta de Movellan or Kathryn McKinney at +1 212 255 2923, or visit lehmannmaupin.com.

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