



BABEL NY presents solo exhibition *Still Life* by photographer Lucas Lenci



invites to
Still Life
Lucas Lenci



Curated by Eder Chiodetto, *Still Life* will be on display in March and April at Babel NY and then will travel to be exhibited at BABEL SP

After immersing himself in a new and unusual universe for the last two years, photographer Lucas Lenci presents his new work, *Still Life*, on display and in book form which will be launched at Babel New York in March, and Babel São Paulo in April.

The subject? Reflections from stuffed animals. It all started when Lenci realized that his two sons showed more interest in the exhibits at the Natural History Museum in New York than at live animals in zoos. "Just as the stuffed animals seem to be alive, the idea of living behind bars seems lifeless--they're always cornered and rarely coming out of their sleeping positions," says Lenci.

Many people collect these animals, but who are the collectors? What is the interest in possessing these objects? With these questions in mind and his camera in hand, Lucas Lenci started to record everything. "It is a private universe, organized and much admired in Europe, which aroused my desire to visually explore something that is not understood by us", he says.

During the process, more than 100 species of birds were photographed--in museums, shops, and collectors' houses. The series is divided into three parts: the birds themselves, the taxidermy studios (a preservation technique where you use straw to fill and maintain the shape of the skin, size and characteristics of each animal) and the dioramas--paintings that represent the habitats of these animals in the background with the 'stuffed' animals in the foreground. "It's as if they all went back to nature after the entire process" said Lenci."

One example is a hyper-realistic image of several penguins, with the sea in the background and rocks under their feet, which "places them back in real-life". Photography has the role of questioning what is real in these scenes between animals and the environment.

Although the theme is not related to the other three books by the author - Desaudio, Movimento Estático and Hominini--Still Life can serve as a counter-dialogue with Lenci's last work, 'Alpha Cities' from 2018. "A common characteristic to both is the way I use photography as an instrument of illusion, new truths, and my truth. "It's the same way that we are doubtful about the birds existing while the city exists, says Lenci.

The partnership with Chiodetto, who edited the book and curated the exhibition, has been long awaited. "We have known each other for 10 years and since then I have deepened my knowledge in photography and in my own art. When I showed him the images for the first time, I could see the enthusiasm in his eyes and I thought 'I did it'!

"Lucas Lenci has shown himself to be an author committed to the investigation of photography as a complex system of representation. His projects aim to unveil the photographic game, revealing a place of experimentation that is beyond the illusory appearance of images. In his previous books, the artist created essays that stressed the silent and static nature of photography. Now, in Still Life, Lenci further deepens this reflection by creating a parallel between photography and taxidermy, leading us to philosophical thinking about the binomials of life and death, existence and resistance, which permeate the reason for the images' existence, the fleeting beauty of birds, and ultimately, ourselves", says Eder Chiodetto.

"This isn't a book about biology or information about birds, but an invitation to make us think about ideas like the life cycle, and the collection and the representation of objects", adds Lenci.

Vernissage: Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 at 5pm

Location: BABEL NY
92 Orchard Street
New York, NY 10002

Exhibition dates: March 10th to April 26th

Visiting hours: Tuesday to Saturday – 10am to 7pm
Sunday – 11am to 5pm

About the artist:

Lucas Lenci [São Paulo, Brasil, 1980]

With bachelor degree in photography and industrial design, Lucas Lenci started his professional career as a photographer after working as an executive producer of commercial, editorial, and cultural projects.

Lucas lived in New York and worked as an art director. Upon his return to São Paulo, he opened his own commercial photography studio.

Lucas' fine art photographs are now part of important private and institutional collections across Brazil and also in Europe. He has participated in and is an approved honorary member of the Photography Academy of São Paulo. Lucas has published three internationally-recognized photobooks. The first, *Desaudio*, was exhibited at the Tokyo PhotoBook Show in 2015. *Movimento Estático* (Static Movement), his second book, was chosen by Saint Petersburg PhotoBook Show and has received awards such as the Hasselblad Masters.

Still Life (Fotô Editorial) is his fourth photobook.

www.lucaslenci.com | www.galeriadebabel.com.br
instagram: @llenci + @galeria_de_babel

Awards

- 2019 - Prix Pictet Nominee with Alpha Cities
- 2019 - International Color Awards Nominee with Still Life
- 2018 - German Design Awards - nominee with the book *Movimento Estático*
- 2018 - Hasselblad Masters - Finalist in the Art category with *Movimento Estático*
- 2017 - MonovisionsPhotography Awards - Honorable Mention in the Art Category
- 2017 - FAPA - Fine ArtPhotography Award - Honorable Mention in the Conceptual category
- 2015 - Black and White Spider Awards - Honorable Mention in the Art Category
- 2015 - Prix de LaPhotographie in the photobook category with *Desaudio*
- 2015 - Finalist of theJabuti Award in the artbook category with *Desaudio*
- 2014 - Black and WhiteSpider Awards - Honorable Mention in the Fine Art category
- 2014 - Banco Espirito Santo Fine Art Award - Acquisition

Exhibitions

- 2019 - "Praia" - Coletiva - Galeria da Gávea, Rio de Janeiro
- 2019 - "O olhar fotográfico contemporâneo - Individual - GPS, Julius Baer Group, São Paulo
- 2018 - "Alpha Cities - Individual - Galeria de Babel , São Paulo
- 2018 - "Alpha Cities - EncuentrosAbiertos de las Imagenes" Festival Internacional de Buenos Aires,Argentina.
- 2018 - "(des)equilibrio -Escritorio Rosa Barbosa de Arte, São Paulo
- 2017 - "Subliminal" - Like a Gallery,Lyon, France

- 2017 - "Raros, Vintages & Inéditos" (Rare,Vintage, and New)- Virgílio Gallery, São Paulo
- 2016 - "Hominini" - individual exhibit - Cultural SpaceCAP, São Paulo
- 2016 - "In-Retrospective" - Bossa Gallery, Miami
- 2015 - "Hominini" - individual exhibition - Galeria Artee Edições, São Paulo
- 2015 - "Oasis" – Collective Exhibition at São Paulo'ssubway stations
- 2015 - "O tempo e os tempos" (Time and Times) –Carbono Gallery - São Paulo
- 2015 - "Justice as Lived Experience" - Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
- Ministry of ForeignAffairs, Roma, Italy

- United Nations, New York, United States

2014 - "A Paisagem da Cidade" (City'sLandscape)- SESC Santana, São Paulo

2014 - "Huéspedes del Presente" (Guestsof the Present) - Novísimas Escuelas Latinoamericanas de Fotografía Creativa, Madrid, Spain

2014 - Academia Paulista de Fotografia, D.O.CGallery

2014 - 5ª. Mostra Paulista de Fotografia, SãoPaulo

2013 - "Algum Lugar"(Somewhere) – Gávea Gallery,Rio de Janeiro

2012 - "Desaudio" – individual exhibition –Fauna Gallery, São Paulo

2012 - "5+5" – dConcept Gallery, São Paulo

2012 - 3ª Mostra SP de Fotografia – São Paulo

2011 - "Entre nós" (Between Us) – GaleriadConcept, São Paulo

2011 - "Cenários Urbanos" (Urban Landscapes) –MuBE, São Paulo

2010 - Launch of Fotospot – collectiveexhibition - Galeria Estação, São Paulo

2009 - "Aifone_pics" – individual – GaleriadConcept, São Paulo

2002 - "3 Gerações de Fotógrafos" (ThreeGenerations of Photographers) – CAP, São Paulo