

THE MERCHANT HOUSE

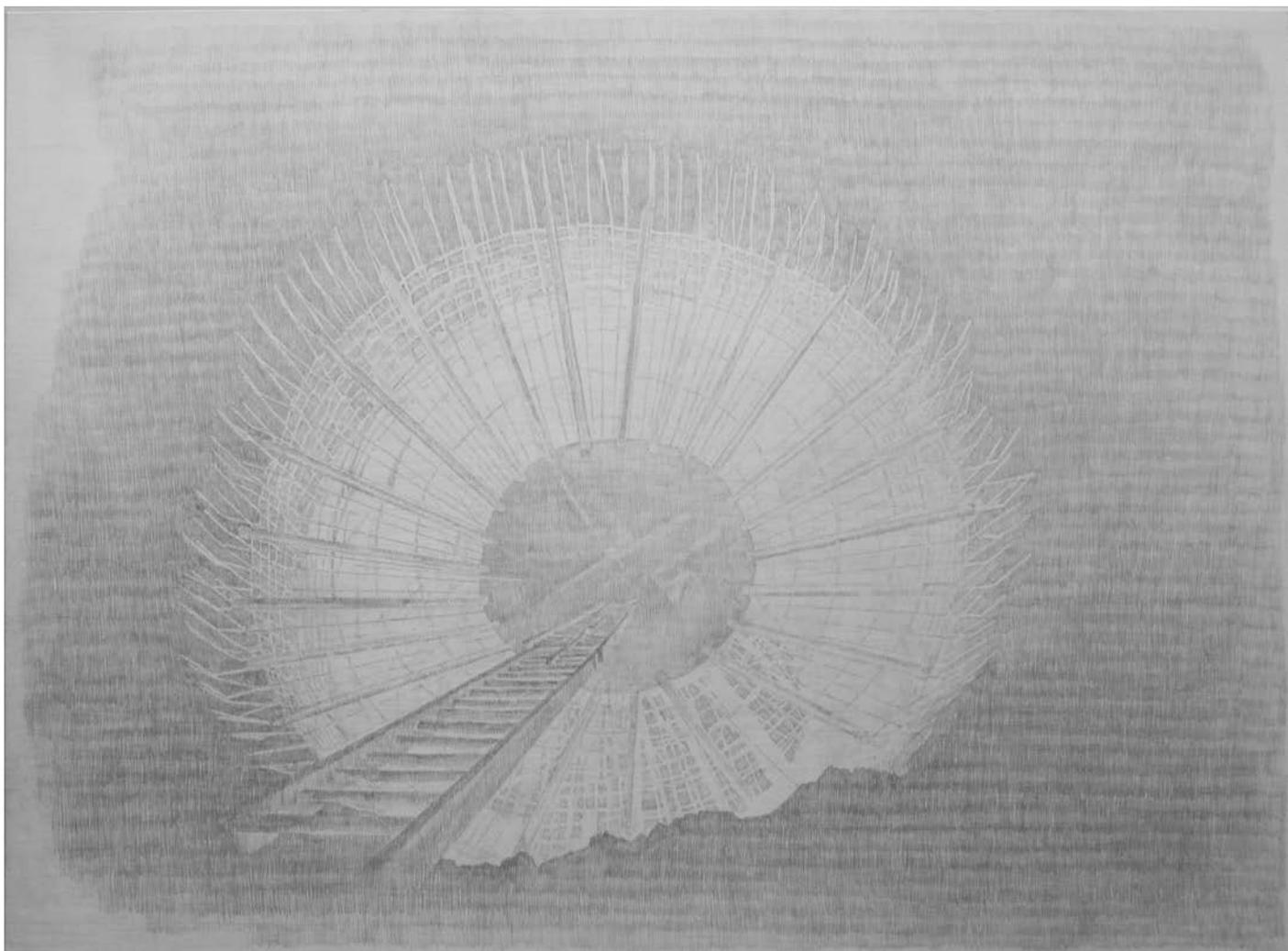
ZHU HONG

How does a young artist inscribe herself in the history of photography? The Merchant House (TMH) opens its cycle *Making Things Happen: Young Artists in Dialogue* with Zhu Hong (1975, FR, born CN) and Sylvie Bonnot (1982, FR), who use photography as a point of departure and idiosyncratic return. They chose to center the show on reciprocal wall art rooted in their approach to work as an itinerant practice, now extending to Amsterdam.

At the core of the dialogue are Amsterdam's hallmark bridges, photographed by Bonnot. With the expediency of her honed "mue" technique, she is able to reposition the gelatin layer of one of the prints directly on a wall. Face-à-face, Hong reciprocates by applying her ultrathin painterly gesture in white on white to interpret the image of Bonnot at this actual photo-shoot. A complex exhibition radiates from this audacious, ephemeral conception to drive deeply into the territories of photography and painting.

Over the ten-year period following their graduation from ENSA of Dijon (both with distinction), the artists have explored locations—physically on foot and in terms of the movement of the gaze—to ground an expert body of work:

Zhu Hong moved to France to study art in counterpoint to her classical painting training in Shanghai. TMH opens with her entire transcription of the 199 pages of *La photographie dans l'art contemporain* (French ed., Thames and Hudson, 2004), executed as a long row—to walk along—of 199 drawings in a pencil-on-black, negative/positive take. Also included are a number of paintings and drawings originating from her recent exhibition at Musée de la Roche-sur-Yon, which followed her work at the prehistory museum in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil. These images reflect on museum displays in their essential institutional settings, both precious and everyday.



Zhu Hong
Coulée continue, 2014-2015
Pencil on zinc
30 x 40 cm



Zhu Hong
Bateau sur mer, 2014-2015
Pencil on zinc
30 x 40 cm



Zhu Hong
Caillot, 2014-2015
Pencil on zinc
30 x 40 cm



Zhu Hong
tache1549, d'après Le lac de Carcès, B. VON CONTA, 2016
Colored pencil on paper
45.5 x 61 cm



Zhu Hong
tache1710, d'après Le col de Larches, B. VON CONTA, 2016
Colored pencil on paper
45.5 x 61 cm



Zhu Hong
tache1339, d'après Rhein Oberkassel, A. GURSKY, 2016
Colored pencil on paper
45.5 x 61 cm



Zhu Hong
Lumière1420, 2016
Oil on canvas
40 x 50 cm



Zhu Hong
Lumière1112, 2015
Oil on canvas
80 x 80 cm



Zhu Hong
Lumière1521, 2015
Oil on canvas
31 x 46 cm

A modern take on the Amsterdam tradition of a merchant
A playful mix of life and commerce
A radical shift in showcasing contemporary art
Art space founded by Marsha Plotnitsky in 2012

The Merchant House
Herengracht 254
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The Netherlands

Open:
Every Friday from
12:00–19:30 and
by appointment