

A VAST METABOLISM BY NOAH SCHEINMAN

Saturday, September 12, 2020 to Saturday, October 31, 2020



Modern Fuel is pleased to present *A Vast Metabolism*, a solo exhibition by Noah Scheinman in The Main Gallery.

Open September 12 - October 31, Tuesdays - Saturdays from 12 - 5PM

Admissions is free.

Masks are required to be worn at all times. There is a maximum of ten people in all three gallery spaces combined at one time. Thank you for your understanding as we work to keep you, our staff, and our artists healthy and safe.

A Vast Metabolism is an exhibition about the entangled histories of forests and humans. It looks back in time to better understand how the timber industry shaped a landscape in its image, and situates this history in the colonial drive for territorial management and resource extraction. By reducing the forest to an abstract space it becomes an environment of control and commodification, where trees exist in terms of the value of the products into which they are transformed. Alongside this instrumentalized notion of forest, are the varied ways it has entered into and been represented by the cultural imaginary; on maps, as paintings, in poetry, through textbooks. These forms of representation work at once to mythologize its spiritual potential while rendering it fundamentally outside (or beyond) the human sphere of life,

Wilderness, nature, these ever-shifting concepts are exactly that: concepts with specific histories that exert with great force how we see, feel and understand the natural world. And so *A Vast Metabolism* is in dialogue with these conditions. Anchored by a video installation that traces the flow of trees as woody matter-in-motion between Algonquin Provincial Park and Chaudiere Falls in Ottawa, two important spatial nodes of timber infrastructure connected by a network of waterways, the exhibition branches into a body of work that further investigates the arboreal interactions that constitute the metabolic relation between society and its trees. It is a meditation on place, but also the story of how earth is arranged by capital and the limited model of forest that such material organizations imply.

Artist's Bio:

Noah Scheinman is a multidisciplinary artist, designer, and writer. His project-based practice explores the intersecting histories of environment, technology and culture, combining extensive research and fieldwork with experimental approaches to making. Working between sculpture, installation, and moving image, his recent projects are particularly focused on material and geographic transformations, and how the legacy of industrial modernity continues to shape present and future temporalities.

Read the accompanying essay by Noah Scheinman here!