

RYAN LEE

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RLProject

Gabriel Lester: Cleromancy

May 14 - June 27, 2015

Reception: Saturday, May 16, 5-7PM

RLWindow

May 12-June 29, 2015

RYAN LEE is pleased to present an exhibition of work by Amsterdam-based inventor **Gabriel Lester** in RLProject and RLWindow. On view in RLProject is *The Big One* (2011), a video, as well as six new and related photographs of vintage lottery tickets lost in space and time. A companion piece, *Cleromancy* (2010), is on view in RLWindow.

Lester is interested in how visual sensibilities are formed, and how it conditions and codifies our relation to who we are and what we imagine the world and its potential to be. Employing the film or projector image, he produces cinematographic narratives. He further investigates suspension in reality through a dualistic approach of providing associative magic thought and rational consciousness. This exists as his proposal on how to relate to the world through individual and collective perspectives.

In the videos on view, Lester mimics the ideas of the “Dream Factory” in the spectacle of lottery through a micro/macro relationship with one another. Originally commissioned by the Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam, *The Big One* discusses themes of ceremony, spectacle, and destiny through an overarching narrative devoid of plot. The film observes a group of people, not quite characters, as they engage in the various stages of the ritual of lottery. It is a look at man’s desire for change, his sense of cosmic justice, and self-reflection. *Cleromancy*, filmed at the Netherlands State Lottery, explores these same themes from a different approach. Lester captures it in extreme close-up, losing the logic of the draw but amplifying the spectacle of the ritual. Again without a linear storyline or specific characters, the film simply shows the hand of lady luck as she guides each ball to the final winning number.

The Big One has exhibited internationally, including at the 2014 Sydney Biennale.

Gabriel Lester (b. 1972, Amsterdam, NL) attended Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunst, Amsterdam. His work has been the subject of important exhibitions, including Marrakesh Biennale (2014), Sydney Biennale (2014), Performa 13 and 09, Venice Biennale (2013), Sharjah Biennale (2013), dOCUMENTA 13 (2012), Sao Paulo Biennial (2010), Liverpool Biennale (2008). He has also exhibited at Artist Space, New York; MACBA, Buenos Aires; Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels; and Witte de With, Rotterdam, among others.

Concurrently on view is *Clifford Ross: The Abstract Edge: Photographs, 1996-2001*. Forthcoming exhibitions include *On The Exactitude of Rain: Maria Antelman, Sari Carel, MacGregor Harp, James Hoff, Bill Stone, and REAL (The Remote Environmental Assessment Lab)*, on view July 1-August 28, 2015.

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