

MINERAL RIGHTS



Lara Almarcegui

in dialogue with

Mohamed Namou

September 3 - October 8, 2016

Opening

Saturday, September 3 — 4pm-9pm



Lara Almarcegui, *Mineral Rights / Tveitvangen*, 2015

*"Stones addressed time, the time we spend in units for living,
the contraposition of biological and geological life,
as well as the industrial will to transform natural materials into useful tools,
the will to process all that is at hand and apply to human needs"*

Chus Martínez, *Lara Almarcegui : Matter Producing Empathy*, 2015

Mineral Rights shows what is hidden beneath the surface, bringing together **Lara Almarcegui's** installations and **Mohamed Namou's** sculptures. By creating a play of relationships between the works of the two artists, the exhibition aims to explore the underground in order to further research on territory and its exploitation.

The wall text **Rocks of Spitsbergen (2014)** is a geological list that determines the stone composition of Spitsbergen, an Arctic island characterized by a long history of mining. Many drilling expeditions were established on the island in order to search for minerals and further extractions are planned. This work depicts the transformation of the territory from its original state and questions the future of the island. What will happen to the region if its rocks are extracted for mineral? Through soil exploration, **Lara Almarcegui** reveals the destruction of landscape through mining and reflects on the possibilities of environmental protection.

With the intention of preserving the territory, in 2015 **Lara Almarcegui** began a long process to acquire the rights of an iron deposit in Tveitvangen, not far from Oslo. By focusing on this unusual legislative relationship to the land, she opposes the companies developing the resources in the territory and seeks, firstly, to show that the underground is part of an economic system that prevails on the surface and, secondly, to highlight the importance to protect the environment from extraction. The video **Mineral Rights (2015)** - which also gives the exhibition its backbone and its title - presents this project and explains how the mining rights granted to the artist protect the mineral from the subsoil to the centre of the earth. The contracts also indicate that the holder must conduct a mineral exploration and this is why **Lara Almarcegui** produces, with the help of a magnetometer, a series of drawings that identify the shape of iron without extracting the mineral. **Mineral Rights, Tveitvangen (Norway)** and **Mineral Rights, Graz (Austria)** create an image of something we wouldn't

be able to envisage otherwise; the layers of information identify the territory as a vertical concept.

Like an archaeologist, **Lara Almarcegui** probes geological layers but without digging, and invites **Mohamed Namou** to further this reflection on territory by exhibiting his sculptures. In contrast to **Lara Almarcegui**, the young French artist penetrates the soil and uses the stone to bring to the surface strata of information. The invisible is materialized in the sculptures of **Mohamed Namou** that compose images in several layers.

In this exhibition, opposites attract and the alternation between material and immaterial, visible and invisible creates a dialogue in contrast between the two artists. This antinomy brings out the hidden dimension of elements.

List of works

Lara Almarcegui

Rocks of Spitsbergen (Svalbard), 2014

Vinyl text

Variables dimensions

Edition of 3 + 1 AP

Lara Almarcegui

Mineral Rights, Tveitvangen (Norway), 2015

Single channel slide projection

9,24 min

Edition of 5 + 1 AP

Lara Almarcegui

Mineral Rights: Magnetic measurements of iron deposits, Tveitvangen, Oslo (Norway), 2016

Drawing

140 x 100 cm

Unique piece

Lara Almarcegui

Mineral Rights: Magnetic measurements of iron deposits, Graz (Austria), 2016

Drawing

140 x 100 cm

Unique piece

Mohamed Namou

Scholie, 2016

Acrylic, marble

210 x 130 cm

Unique piece

Mohamed Namou

Scholie, 2016

Acrylic, marble

170 x 130 cm

Unique piece