

LETHA WILSON

CROSS COUNTRY May 18 – July 13
Keizersgracht 241

Opening: Saturday May 18th, 2019 from 6 pm until 8 pm

Ultimately, Letha Wilson's work questions our changing relationships to nature and man-made space, and how photography mediates those relationships.

–Taylor Dafoe, ARTnews, 2018

GRIMM is pleased to announce *Cross Country*, a solo exhibition of new works by Letha Wilson (1976 Honolulu, US), on view at our Keizersgracht location in Amsterdam. This marks the artist's third solo exhibition with the gallery and comprises a new body of free-standing sculptures.

Letha Wilson expands the boundaries between photography and sculpture by questioning how a photograph can be physically engaged. She trades the traditional confines of a photographic image by merging them with industrial materials like concrete, zinc, aluminum or steel. In doing so, she questions the duality between the natural landscape and our industrial, synthetic society.

Proposing a new physical presence that has a life of its own beyond the original photograph, Wilson's work is as much about its own material as the image that it was born from. The works in *Cross Country* contain photographs from sites in the American west that Wilson has recently traveled to, such as Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada and Zion National Park in Utah.

Many of the photographs were taken this past winter when Wilson committed several trips exploring the environment of Nevada. The images show a variety of natural textures, from detailed, green close-ups that carefully reveal the veins of a fern or a conifer's twigs, to majestic rock facades that reach beyond the horizon. Her exploration of this region renders a concentration of colors ranging from deep green to the brown, ochre, red and even purple hues of stone.

The photographs taken on site are later manipulated in the studio and printed on Corten steel. Some sculptures fluently mirror the lines of the pictured landscape, while others contain sharp geometric forms which produce an interplay of shadow and light on the images.



Letha Wilson | *Hawaii California Steel (Figure Ground)* | 2017 | Installation view at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA (US)

The works in *Cross Country* are a continuation of Wilson's free-standing outdoor sculptures, but on a smaller, more intimate scale that the viewer can physically relate to. The artist has implemented UV-printing which allows the works to be installed outside and engage directly with the elements and nature. As the patinas change over time due to various weather conditions, the natural world will act as a co-creative force on the form of these artworks.

Color and form are explored in works that are welded, folded, bent, perforated and cut, alluding to Wilson's control of material and space; their final textures referring back to natural terrains. Through these gestures, Wilson creates abstract works that speak to our complex relationship with nature.

not for publication

For more information, interview and royalty free image requests, please contact the gallery manager Jorien de Vries:
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About the artist

Letha Wilson was born in 1976 in Honolulu, HI (US) and raised in Greeley, CO (US). She currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY (US). She earned her BFA from Syracuse University, NY (US) in 1998, and an MFA from Hunter College, NY (US) in 2003.

Residencies include The MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, NH (US), University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV (US), Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Madison, ME (US), The Yaddo Foundation, NY (US), Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha, NE (US), and Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, CA (US).

Recent solo exhibitions were organized by GRIMM New York, NY (US) in 2018, the Center for Contemporary Art and Culture, PNCA, PO (US) and the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA (US) in 2017, and Galerie Christophe Gaillard, Paris (FR) in 2016.

Wilson has participated in group exhibitions at the New York Public Library, New York, NY (US), MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA (US), MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome (IT), Essl Museum, Klosterneuburg (AT), Bemis Center for Contemporary Art in Omaha, NE (US), Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY (US), Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City, NY (US), Exit Art, NY (US), and the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT (US).

Letha Wilson | *Bryce Canyon Lava Push* | 2018

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