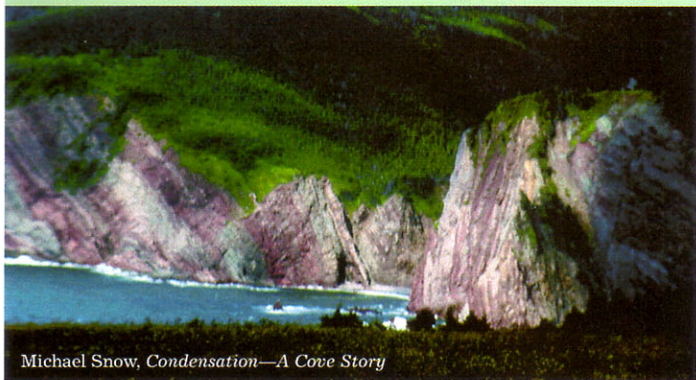


Double up

REGULAR REVIEWER TIM CLARK LOOKS AT TWO EXHIBITIONS TO SEE IN BARCELONA THIS MONTH



Michael Snow, *Condensation—A Cove Story*

As a video artist, Michael Snow is revered, especially among critics and curators, for his ground-breaking work in experimental cinema. But his films can also be easy to dismiss: his work is often so fragmentary, so seemingly incomplete, that it can be hard to understand what all the fuss is about. Yet no other artist has done so much to destabilise our approximation of the visible than Michael Snow. By threatening the very tools we rely on to process what we perceive, the artist creates unnerving yet frequently poetic works. His avant-garde film-making is less about a way of understanding the camera as a device for recording than as an instrument whose structural, material properties can form the main focus of the work. Michael Snow's rich and rigorous meditations on cinematic practice can be seen in what is his first solo show in Spain with two new video-installations and a film that will rank among the best exhibitions this month.

Tim gave this show four out of five

Michael Snow

Until June 13th

Àngels Barcelona

Pintor Fortuny 27; Metro: Catalunya

www.angelsbarcelona.com

Photography often maintains a certain friction in the play on absence and presence; at least this is the theme that is at the centre of the exhibition, 'Rastros', currently on display at the Fundación Foto Colectania, in which several contemporary artists explore the idea of traces and marks as signs of human activity [*rastros* in Castilian can be translated into English as traces, as well as trail or scent].

Works by Javier Ayarza, A. Ferrer, Ger Jan Kocken, Ulrich Gebert, Matt Packer, Sven Johne and Lewis Ronald by and large comprise unpopulated photographs that point to human influence through what has been left behind in the landscape. At its best, the photography on show here is discreetly perceptive and rendered exquisitely, but, at its worst, is nondescript and unremarkable. If you like your art to be clever and complex, this one is for you.

Tim rated this show as two out of five

Rastros

Until July 31st

Fundación Foto Colectania

Julián Romea 6, D2; FGC: Gràcia

www.colectania.es