
BOOKSHOP

Fratelli Lumière [Loïe Fuller], *Film Lumière n° 765,1 – Danse serpentine, II*, 1896

In this color film, one of the first made by the Lumière Brothers, a performer interprets the famous “serpentine dance” of the American dancer Loïe Fuller (Fullersburg, 1862 – Paris, 1928). The movements of the body are amplified by the use of silk dresses that, when masterfully agitated, conjure up various figures – butterflies, clouds, or flames – in an interplay of dancing luminosity made even more spectacular by the skillful use of salts and chemical compounds. In order to restore the magic of the chromatic effects, the Lumière brothers had each frame of the film colored by hand. Loie Fuller’s interest in chemistry is witnessed by an intense correspondence with Marie Curie, to whom the artist had turned to see if it was possible to use the phosphorescence of radium to color her stage clothes.

Ignasi Aballí, *A Possible Landscape (Bergamo Version)*, 2021

For this exhibition, the Spanish artist Ignasi Aballí (Barcelona, 1958) created a new installation, part of his series begun in 2006: *A Possible Landscape*. The artist conducts a sort of anatomical study of the air, implementing a reflection on the perception of reality, on transience, and on the invisible and changing aspects of the landscape that surrounds us. Polluting materials, meteorological and atmospheric conditions, and many other elements are made visible through words, in a visual composition that recalls the schematic nature of the periodic table and of scientific texts. *A Possible Landscape (Bergamo Version)* goes beyond the relationships between visible and invisible—toying, for example, with transparency and the presence of glass and air—to create tensions between the verifiable and the unverifiable, that which is really or potentially present, underlining once again the active role that the viewer’s imagination plays in the perception of a work of art. Partly interrupting his own observations with the limitations imposed by walls and windows, Aballí potentially extends the list of elements present in the air to infinity, thickening the atmosphere to the point of it becoming almost suffocating.