

MUSEUM FORMS

Museum Forms establishes a dialogue between photographers Paul Clemence (Brazil) and Julien Spiewak (France) about the perception of space inside and outside international museums. In this context, space is visualized as incorporating both interior and exterior architectural components. It is also explored as an invitation to reflect upon the purpose of museums and question how aesthetics influences our appreciation of institutional collections.

Since the turn of the twentieth-first century, the role of the museum in society has been a recurring debate. In addition to the preservation, conservation, and installation of our visual and cultural past, museums are held accountable as global spaces for education and entertainment. At the core of these debates are discussions on object restitution and reparations, public and private access, ethical conflicts and corporate board members, and implicit racism and sexism, to name only a few timely arguments.

Countering these challenges, virtual museums and material collections are available on-line for a greater number of people. In many ways, such widespread availability shapes new community identities, inspires and addresses social issues and harnesses the energy of the Bauhaus ideals - now in its centennial celebration.

Museums have been an ongoing theme for Clemence's and Spiewak's work throughout their careers. For this exhibition, at espace_L, we selected photographs that present European - with a focus on Swiss - and Brazilian museums. The list includes the Ethnographic Museum of Geneva, Ariana Museum, MAMCO Geneva, Kunstmuseum Basel, Museum Tinguely, Kunsthaus Zurich, Musée Cantonale, Museum der Kultur, Foundation Beyeler and Zentrum Paul Klee, Museum Van Loon (The Netherlands), Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature (France), Palace of Andrea Doria (Italy) and the Museum of the Republic (Brazil).

Museum Forms is about this resulting encounter of two photographers whose imagery takes us, as viewers, on a journey of discovery. This journey is one that awakens our own relation to the physical world and the affective experience of museums.

-Luciana Solano
Independent Curator