GALERIA PALÁCIO

Andrés Stephanou
Smoke
January 28 – March 29, 2021

Galeria Palácio is pleased to present *Smoke*, Andrés Stephanou's fourth solo exhibition with the gallery. *Smoke* presents a single work. The exhibition marks the reopening of the gallery following the COVID-19 pandemic-related shutdown.

Smoke (2018–20) simulates smoke plumes generated by a custom-built system that incorporates multiple principles which characterize a non-living matter, such as the constant state of change, the impossibility of prediction, exist under a non-replicable sequence of events, the absence of symmetry, among others. Exploring the viewer's sense of randomness, the simulation investigates notions of motion and change — the order coming from the chaos.

Through computer science, an algorithm was built, embodying a custom software that generates and manages the smoke imagery exhibited by the simulation. As a starting point for the aesthetic structuring of the smoke imagery, *Smoke* took as reference video recordings of human-caused wildfires in Brazil's Amazon rainforest. The simulation sheds light on global warming issues, investigating the role of art in the climate emergency and intrinsically acting as a catalyst for social change. *Smoke* exists as a visual manifesto that points to the exponential increase in the last years of human-caused wildfires in Brazil's Amazon rainforest, which is resulting in high levels of deforestation and carbon emission, effectively contributing to global warming.

Computer-rendered in real time, having no beginning, middle, and end, *Smoke* explores the sense of temporality and passage of time. Every simulation frame is a singular composition. Each hour, the simulation generates more than two hundred thousand distinct compositions of the smoke imagery, not exhibiting the same composition twice; the current composition does not recur. Generative, no two visual experiences of *Smoke* are alike.