50 Metres Distance Or More

Labor (Mexico City, Mexico)
January 2011
On January 6th 2010 I departed from Ushuaia, Argentina towards the Antarctic territory in a vessel with eight people. The sailboat, named Spirit of Sydney was specially outfitted for polar research. The voyage lasted 26 days.

I had planned to make drawings of icebergs and glaciers that I would hopefully see during the trip via direct observation of the landscape.

Over the course of the expedition the light, the atmosphere and the sense of distance made me think of the tradition of landscape painting, specifically Romanticist painting. Upon my return I felt a strong urge to establish a dialogue with this tradition and created a series of 3 large paintings. These were painted in oil on canvas and formed a core part of the exhibition 50 Metres Distance Or More.
Painting I
oil on canvas, 415 × 200 cm
Painting II
oil on canvas, 415 × 200 cm
i-iii
Painting III
oil on canvas, 415 × 200 cm
Serie I: 22 drawings
pencil on paper, 30 × 21 cm
Weather and space restrictions were an intrinsic part of the project. Cold, snow, rain, the boat drifting, the boat changing locations, the impossibility of going onshore alone and at will—all become part of the process of the project.
Serie II: 28 drawings
pencil on paper, 21 × 15 cm
ii-iii
Serie III
4 watercolors, 30×24 cm
ii-iv
Serie IV
5 watercolors, 24 × 18 cm
I returned with a series of drawings, pencil on paper, and a series of acquarells. These drawings have two lives. They are part of the exhibition (ii) and are also part of the publication *50 Metres Distance or More* which is diaristic and forms an integral part of this particular expedition. It was published on the occasion of the exhibition (iii).
Irene Kopelman

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