

P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E

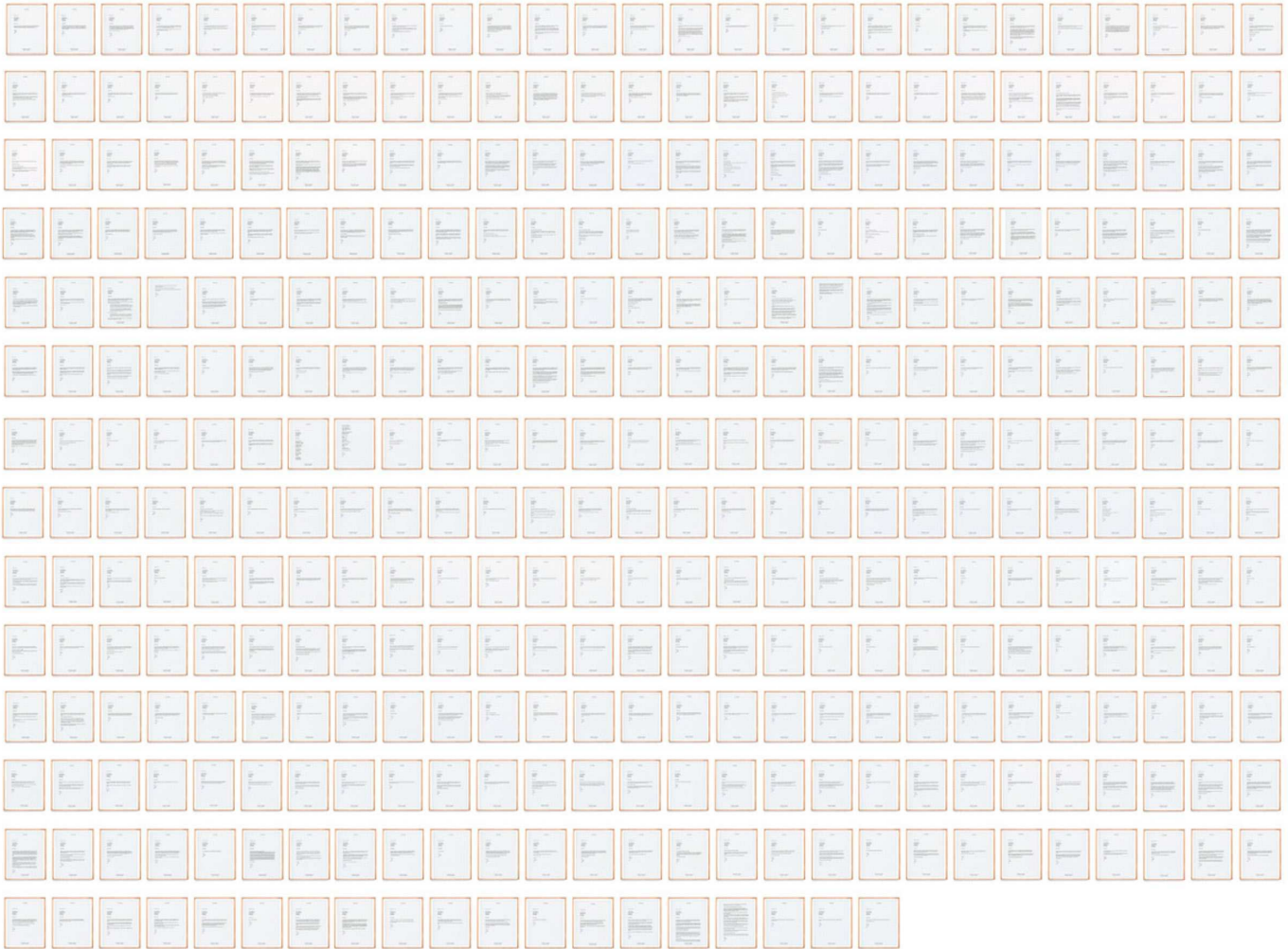
cole sternberg
a forest of thoughts in quick succession
21 october - 2 december 2023

PRAZ-DELAVALLADE LOS ANGELES
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P R A Z
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COLE STERNBERG
a forest of thoughts in quick succession
21 October - 2 December 2023



a diary sent to an imagined friend
a discipline for an idle mind circles
printed on corporate letterhead jokes
and anger and angry jokes
recipes
sunsets, quails, floods, and fires
365 days of letters to gerhard richter

Praz-Delavallade Los Angeles is pleased to present *a forest of thoughts in quick succession*, the gallery's second solo exhibition with conceptual artist Cole Sternberg. The exhibition's epicenter is a series of 365 letters the artist wrote to Gerhard Richter in 2017 in which Sternberg explores the shifting models of parley systems, delving into an unrequested, unrequited dialogue with an artist he's never met. The epistolary series, installed in its entirety in the gallery's main room, is bookended by what is, in essence, both a prologue and epilogue to the underlying themes of the letters. The works of the front room and project space invite viewers into a multi-media expression that beckons for the same inquisitive and varying analysis as the letters. There are sculptures of recycled alabaster that Sternberg unearthed and combined in Tuscany, a tree growing from a new ceramic work, environmentally-exposed photographs and paintings, and a blank letter to Herr Richter, which asks the viewer to think for themselves.

Part meditation, part ritual, Sternberg began his quest to converse with the famed German after stumbling upon his home address in Cologne, unassured that his letters would be received, read, or answered. In a time when innumerable virtual messages and emails are sent every year, engaging in epistolary communication is so passé that it has reemerged as an art form of its own. Obediently drafting, printing, and sending the writings on a daily basis, regardless of his location, Sternberg took on the role of a faceless raconteur, sometimes poetic, sometimes banal, sharing daily thoughts and life happenings with a stranger who never replied. His intimate letters read as faithful prayers, mindful declamations, and political rants that summarize a year in the life of a traveling artist, offering a glimpse into his feelings and thoughts, as well as a trace of his whereabouts. In totality, we are left with an intentionally vague societal and personal commentary, rife with puzzles and layered meanings.

Sternberg's rigorous practice assumed the following rules:

1. The subject matter would never be preconceived.
2. The letters would never be created in advance.
3. Geographic locations would never be mentioned, except metaphorically.
4. Each letter would sign off with 'Talk soon.'
5. Each letter would be printed on a custom letterhead with a portable printer, enclosed within an embossed envelope, and placed in the mail before midnight each day.

These parameters resulted in a narrative that reads as though you've jumped into the middle of a conversation between old friends—at least on the surface—while creating a puzzle of language in need of deciphering. Visitors to the exhibition are encouraged to embark on this challenge, with bound copies of Sternberg's 365 letters available for their review.

Cole Sternberg: a forest of thoughts in quick succession marks the first occasion that the artist has exhibited recycled sculpture and ceramics; Sternberg's new mediums, presented in concert with his environmentally-affected photography, painting, and literary works, demonstrate the adventurous, conceptual, and diverse nature of his thoughts, as is reflected in the exhibition's title.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Cole Sternberg is a conceptual artist who lives and works in Los Angeles. His practice contemplates humanity's existential quandary: that of being hopelessly destructive, yet forever and inevitably linked with nature. Through varied media (including painting, sculpture, installation, performance, photography, film, and writing), Sternberg positions the aspirations of humankind against the dominant and regenerative forces of the environment and the arbitration of time. For the artist, the conclusion is unavoidable. Human enterprises -- art, language, history, law, and republic -- are ephemeral / illusory endeavors that attempt to reflect, parallel, and challenge the ascendancy of nature to no avail. His works are held by major collections throughout the world, such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), the El Segundo Museum of Art (ESMoA), the American University Museum (AUM) and Deutsche Telekom.

P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E



Cole Sternberg

*a repository for intelligence, the faculty of memory
and emotions, 2023*

acrylic, pigment print, and watercolor on satin cloth

44 x 68 in

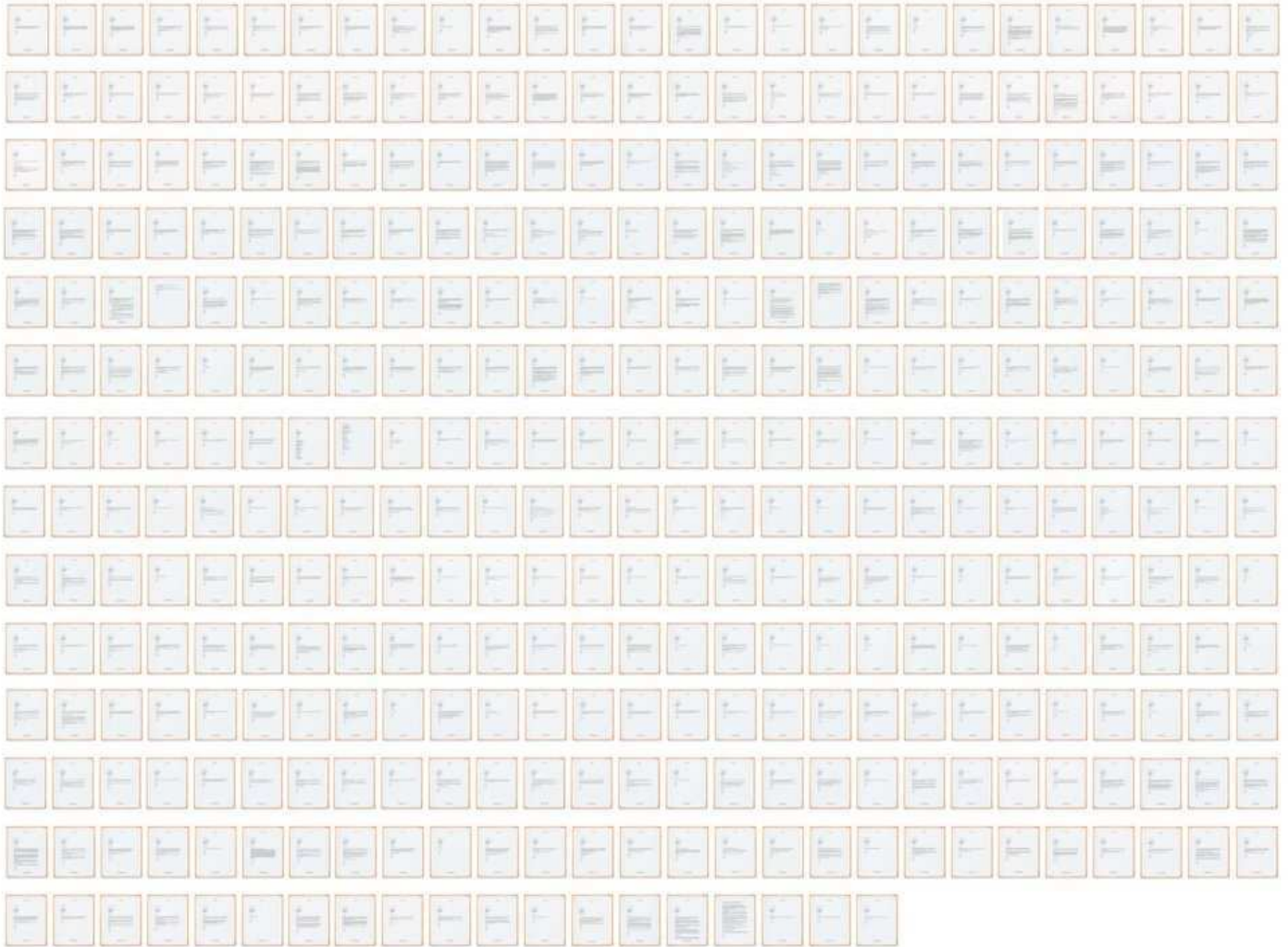
111.8 x 172.7 cm

(CS23P30)

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P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E



Cole Sternberg
talk soon, 2017
pigment print and ink on paper
dimensions variable in 365 parts, each 11 x 8.5 in, 27.6 x 21.6 cm, (unframed)
(CS23P44)

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P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E



Cole Sternberg
as the gods merge, 2023
acrylic, pigment print, and watercolor on satin cloth
44 x 58 in
111.8 x 147.3 cm
(CS23P32)

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Cole Sternberg
by reason of the high hills, 2023
acrylic, pigment print, and watercolor on satin cloth
65 x 88 in
165.1 x 223.5 cm
(CS23P31)

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P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E



Cole Sternberg
a forest reshaped is not a forest, 2022 - 2023
alabaster, brass, maple, oil varnish, and wax varnish
50 x 6 1/2 x 6 in
127 x 16.5 x 15.2 cm
(CS23S1)

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P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E



Cole Sternberg
easily carried away on a breath of wind, 2023
acrylic and watercolor on linen
78 x 86 in
198.1 x 218.4 cm
(CS23P36)

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P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E



Cole Sternberg

tangles of brambles prevent detours off the beaten path, 2023

acrylic, pigment print, and watercolor on satin cloth

44 x 58 in

111.8 x 147.3 cm

(CS23P34)

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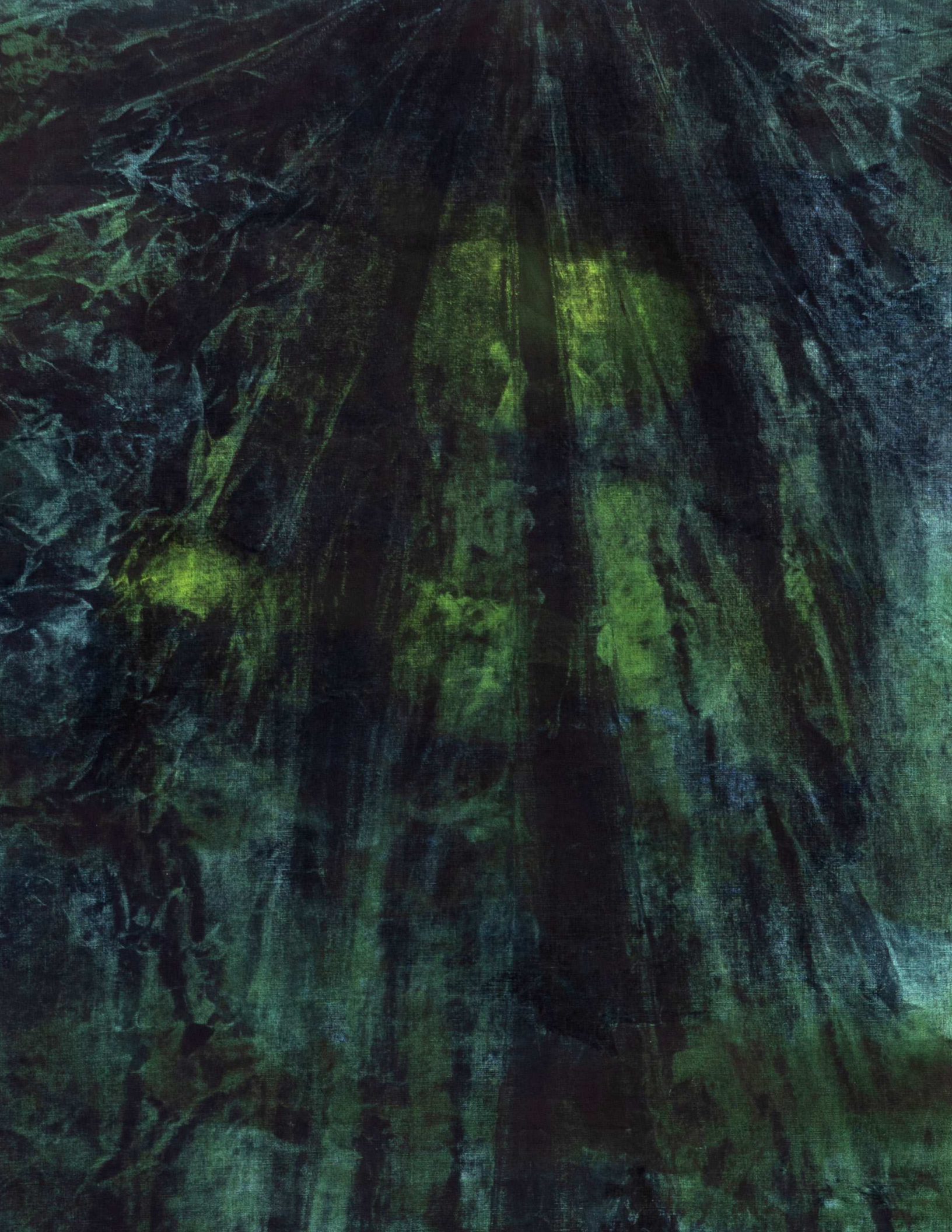
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Cole Sternberg
to bridge the gap in their bark, 2023
acrylic and watercolor on linen
86 x 78 in
218.4 x 198.1 cm
(CS23P39)

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P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E



Cole Sternberg
the great actual individualism latent, 2023
acrylic and watercolor on linen
70 x 86 in
177.8 x 218.4 cm
(CS23P37)

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P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E



Cole Sternberg
they enclose all into pastures, 2023
acrylic, pigment print, and watercolor on satin cloth
44 x 58 in
111.8 x 147.3 cm
(CS23P38)

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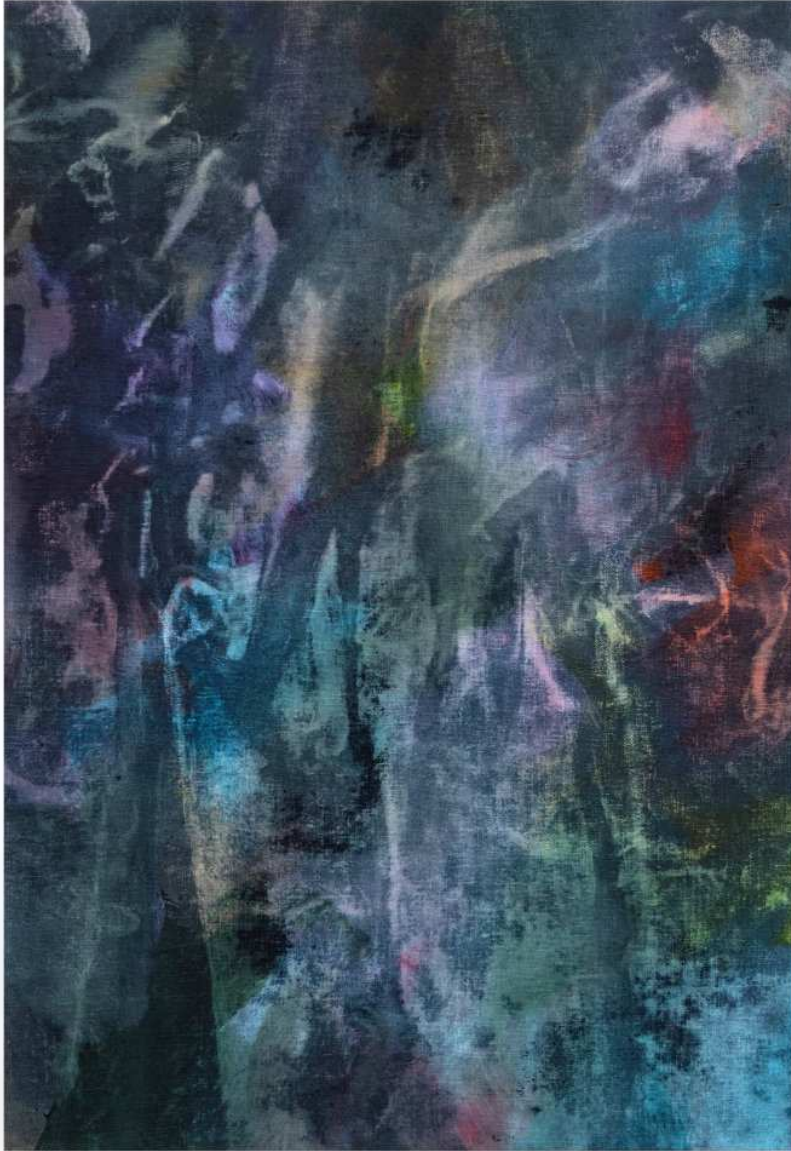
Cole Sternberg
structure reversion strategy, 2022-2023
alabaster, brass, maple, oil varnish, and wax varnish
46 x 6 x 8 in
116.8 x 15.2 x 20.3 cm
(CS23S2)

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P R A Z
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Cole Sternberg
possession to any large extent is a bore, 2023
acrylic and watercolor on linen
19 x 13 in
48.3 x 33 cm
(CS23P33)

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P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E



Cole Sternberg
vertebrates, 2023
acrylic, pigment print, and watercolor on satin cloth
54 x 38 in
137.2 x 96.5 cm
(CS23P40)

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P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E



Cole Sternberg
the exhortation to rejuvenate, 2023
acrylic and watercolor on linen
70 x 76 in
177.8 x 193 cm
(CS23P35)

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P R A Z
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Cole Sternberg
to be the grandest rock in the world, 2022-2023
alabaster, brass, maple, oil varnish, and wax varnish
51 x 6 x 6 in
129.5 x 15.2 x 15.2 cm
(CS23S3)

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Cole Sternberg

in central europe, there are no longer any true old-growth forests, 2023
acrylic, pigment print, and watercolor on satin cloth

30 x 40 in
76.2 x 101.6 cm
(CS23P29)

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P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E



Cole Sternberg
with his speaking eyes, 2022-2023
alabaster, brass, maple, oil varnish, and wax varnish
51 x 6 x 6 in
129.5 x 15.2 x 15.2 cm
(CS23S4)

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P R A Z
D E L A V A L L A D E



Cole Sternberg
we'll talk soon, 2023
pigment print on paper
11 x 8 1/2 in
27.9 x 21.6 cm
(CS23P42)

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