Hamish Fulton A MOUNTAIN IS NOT MADE OF STONE IT IS STONE

27 July - 21 September 2024

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Hamish Fulton has described himself as a walking artist. The artist sees walking as an art form and a personal responsibility towards nature. All his art works start with his walking experience and his inherent refusal to see nature as a mere backdrop or stage to his art. In this sense, his walks come and go, like a cloud condensates and precipitates, inserting themselves into cycles that go beyond the usual limits of the imagination. To the artist, a completed walk is not a visible entity. Although highly conceptual in his process, Fulton rejects being categorized as a conceptual artist.

In this exhibition, new works by Fulton mark the gallery walls like small impressionist paintings. Each one is a landscape or depiction of a walk holding an individual story. Fulton documents his walks with both non-figurative and figurative illustrations as well as the fundamental walk texts which carefully word his measurements in steps, days, roads, dates, nights, or dots. There is a clearness and an aim to his travels as depicted in his texts, often a starting point and a destination, yet Fulton is persistent in telling the viewer that his work does not end with the words on the wall.

The work Walking Seven Times Toward The Summer Solstice is one example of Fulton's activating titles. There is a poetry to Fulton's way of wording these walks. The walk texts instantiate a future not unlike a speech act performs an action. This is visible in Fulton's work. The promises he makes to natural landscapes is essential to his art but it is also a demand to the viewer to take the human interference in nature more seriously. There is a sense of rebellion to his walking, criticism for sure. Through his art works, the artist seems to tell the viewer that nature exists but culture, with all its beauty and troubling faults, is a product of the human world.