



XVA Gallery presents

Library of the Infinitesimally Small and the Unimaginably Large.

a solo exhibition by Barbara Wildenboer

Opening 15th November 2020

“My work exposes the connections between a myriad of life forms – from the microscopic to the immense. My main focus is on environmental aesthetics. I see this as something that not only encompasses natural territories, but as also extending to human interaction with the natural realm.”

- Barbara Wildenboer

November 3rd, 2020, Dubai, UAE // XVA Gallery is pleased to present *Library of the Infinitesimally Small and the Unimaginably Large*, a solo exhibition by Barbara Wildenboer, showcasing her latest series of collage, photo-, paper- construction and digitally animated photographic sculpture. Sometimes she makes use of technology but most of the pieces are usually entirely hand cut.

Library of the Infinitesimally Small and the Unimaginably Large

Wildenboer began her book project *Library of the Infinitesimally Small and Unimaginable Large* in 2011, a large-scale ongoing project that uses the library as a metaphor for the universe and was inspired by a short story by the Argentinian writer Jorge Luis Borges titled *The Library of Babel*. Through this series she makes reference to the relation between technology and the natural environment, looking at phenomena such as fractal geometry and the interconnectedness of all living things by creating visual metaphors that speak of a sense of wonder at the complicated beauty of patterns in nature.

She sources her books and maps from second-hand bookshops and flea markets all over the world. The books, sentences, words and letters become elements of new visual narrative in which the old and new narratives co-exist. Through the act of altering books, she draws emphasis to our understanding of natural history as mediated through text or language and our understanding of the abstract terms of science through metaphor.

“The universe (which others call the Library) is composed of an indefinite, perhaps infinite number of hexagonal galleries.”

- Jorge Luis Borges, *The Library of Babel*

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Exhibition Dates: Nov 15 – Dec 15, 2020

Barbara Wildenboer

Barbara Wildenboer lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. She obtained a Masters in Fine Art at the University of Cape Town in 2007 and completed a BA with majors in English Literature, Psychology and Pedagogics at the University of Pretoria in 1996, followed by a Bachelor of Visual Arts from UNISA. Wildenboer has participated in several group exhibitions and art fairs both nationally and internationally, including South Africa, San Francisco, Washington, London, Dubai, Sydney, and Hong Kong. In 2011, she was nominated and subsequently selected as one of the top 20 finalists for the Sovereign African Arts Award for which she received the Public Choice Prize. She has been awarded several international residencies such as the Red De Residencias Artisticas Local (Bogota, Colombia, 2011), the Rimbun Dahan artist residency (Penang, Malaysia, 2013), L'Atelier Sur Seine (Fontainebleau, France 2016).

XVA Gallery, established in 2003, is one of the leading galleries in the Middle East that specializes in contemporary art from the Arab world, Iran and the Subcontinent. Exhibitions focus on works by the regions foremost artists as well as those emerging onto the scene. The gallery's artists express their different cultural identities and perspectives while challenging the viewer to drop prejudices and borders. XVA Gallery exhibits both locally and internationally; collaborating with galleries and participating in international art fairs.

XVA Gallery and XVA Art Hotel are located in Dubai's heritage district, now called Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood. XVA founded and organized the Bastakiya Art Fair from 2007- 2010 as part of its commitment to raising the profile of contemporary art practice in Dubai. For three years, XVA was located in DIFC and has now expanded its premises in Al Fahidi.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: XVA Gallery

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