

Nimbus Series

Berndnaut Smilde

Nimbus

The Nimbus works present a transitory moment of presence in a specific location. They can be interpreted as a sign of loss or becoming, or simply as a fragment from a classical painting. People have always had a strong, metaphysical connection to clouds and through time have projected many ideas on them.

Berndaunt Smilde is interested in the temporary aspect of the work. It is there for a few seconds before falling apart. The physical aspect is very important, but the work, in the end, only exists as a photograph. The photo functions as a document of something that happened in a specific location and is now gone.

Smilde produces striking images of “real” clouds suspended within empty rooms. Using a fog machine he carefully adjusts the temperature and humidity to produce clouds just long enough to be photographed. There is a unique ephemeral aspect to the work in which the photograph captures a very brief moment before the cloud dissipates and disappears again as mysteriously as it was formed. His choice of lighting and viewing aspect enables him to create a representation of the cloud’s physicality.

In a separate new series of work, Smilde has started working with a material called aerogel also known as frozen smoke. It consists of 99.8% air and is the lightest solid material on earth. In these works aerogel hovers like an eerie translucent smoke over scaled-down models of buildings.

Image Credits

Berndnaut Smilde, *Nimbus Bonnefonten*, 2013, courtesy of the artist and Ronchini Gallery

Berndnaut Smilde, *Nimbus Dumont*, 2014, photo by Cassander Eeftinck Schattenkerk, courtesy of the artist and Ronchini Gallery

Berndnaut Smilde, *Nimbus Green Room*, 2013, photo by R.J. Muna, courtesy of the artist and Ronchini Gallery

Berndnaut Smilde, *Nimbus Visual*, 2013, courtesy of the artist and Ronchini Gallery







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