

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michael Linares
The Way of Makapansgat

September 19th - October 17th

Opening Reception:
Saturday, September 19th
6-9 pm

Gallery Hours:
Wed-Sat 12-6 pm
or by appointment



Galería Agustina Ferreyra is pleased to present *The Way of Makapansgat*, Michael Linares's first solo exhibition at the gallery. For the occasion, Linares presents a body of work analog to an investigation he's been conducting on the history, function and quotidian uses of what we know and commonly refer to as the *stick*. The exhibition, gathers a series of theories, references and historical events, that along with the investigation, inform the artist's ongoing interest in the interpretation and analysis of the way we make sense.

The Makapansgat Pebble, also known as the 'pebble of many faces' is an anthropomorphic stone, the size of a baseball, found in 1925 on the Makapansgat Valley, located in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. The aforementioned pebble (ca. 3,000,000 BP) is the first of what scientists have defined as a *Manuport*. Technically, a Manuport is a natural object with no alteration whatsoever, that has

been removed from its original context by human agency. Using animation, Linares uses the circumstances of the Makapansgat finding to tell the story of another phenomenon, one that is considered by the artist to be the reason and origin, of everything that means anything for our species.

During the Cold War in the 1970's , the United States's security agencies concluded that their Soviet enemies were investing large quantities of money conducting extensive research and obtaining successful results in the field of psychotronics, or the study of the parapsychological, with military purposes. In an attempt to keep up with the Russians, the CIA decided to initiate a program known as "Stargate" with the idea of using extrasensory perception as an espionage strategy, developing what is now known as *Remote Viewing*, a practice consisting of 'seeing impressions' about an unseen or distant target using extrasensory perception. In remote viewing, the clairvoyant communicates telepathically with its target and graphically deconstructs a message through a doodle. In order to decipher and code these doodles, the CIA established a series of basic ideograms, that frequently came up in the interpretation of their subjects, producing a *universal* code made of six basic symbols that represent the most basic characters in remote viewing. These are: Human, Water, Structure, Energy, Flatland and Mountain.

Ideograms, 2015 is a series of paintings based on these symbols that represent the idealist human effort of creating common sense, not only with the intention of understanding its own mind, but with the need to communicate a consensus, while evidencing the power of the symbolic in the construction of what we understand and accept as history.

Lastly, in *Una Persona Balanceando Un Palo En Su Dedo Tanto Tiempo Como Pueda, 2015*, Linares goes back to his original investigation in order to address the way in which a stick, can be understood as the material example of what could be the first decontextualized object in the history of our species. On one hand, one

could sustain that the stick works as an indicator of the human capacity of creating metaphors, and on the other, the act of balancing an object works as a challenge to physics through balance. Balancing a stick, could then be a symbolic act, one in which the object is divested from all meaning and is presented in a limbo, suspended, useless, but then again full of possibilities, emphasizing the object's full potential of becoming something else, anything else.

For Linares, *The Way of Makapansgat* is the way of our species, of our own evolution, of the importance of the symbolic in the construction of meaning, the way of understanding our surroundings and communicating in order to make sense.

Image: Still from *Makapansgat's Way*, 2015. ©Michael Linares

Special Thanks To: Fabián Wilkins, Sofía Gallisá Muriente, Frank Darren, Diego de la Cruz & Gabriel Maldonado