

# SEANKELLY

Editor. "Towards No Earthly Pole." *Artland*. February 2020.



[\*Towards No Earthly Pole\*: NOW AVAILABLE IN ARTLAND 3D](#)

Artists: Julian Charrière

Gallery: Sean Kelly Gallery

Duration: 30 Jan – 20 March 2020

Address: 475 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New York, United States

Recognized as one of the most innovative and prominent artists of his generation, Charrière is renowned for a complex discipline that links artistic and scientific inquiry, coalescing ecology, geology, archaeology, physics, historical inquiry, and nomadic exploration. Centered around the US premiere of Charrière's video work of the same name, the exhibition continues Charrière's exploration into how human civilization and the natural landscape are inextricably linked. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, January 30, from 6-8pm. The artist will be present.

Charrière conceived the film, *Towards No Earthly Pole*, while aboard a Russian research ship for the first Antarctic Biennale. The powerful impression made on him by the Antarctic landscape and his readings of accounts of early 20th-century exploration led him to focus on Iceland, Greenland, the Rhône and Aletsch glaciers and Mont Blanc in France. This meditative 102-minute film, the result of a series of expeditions made between 2017-2019, combines footage taken from each of the locations. Filmed at night, the dazzling landscapes Charrière captured are dramatically lit by a spotlight carried on a drone; as light tracks across the dark terrain, incredible shapes and tonalities of an almost

# SEANKELLY

otherworldly nature are revealed. *Towards No Earthly Pole* offers a unique vision of polar landscapes, inviting a unique consideration of their mythos, delicate ecology, and fraught geopolitical condition.

Exhibited in conjunction with the film will be four sculptures titled *Not All Who Wander Are Lost*, 2019. A series of perforated boulders, which rest atop beds of core samples that were drilled and removed from each mass, reflect on the movement of matter. They were inspired by a geological paradox Charrière encountered on several occasions during his travels. Referred to as “erratics,” these large boulders, found in the middle of otherwise empty fields, differ in size and type from the rocks native to the surrounding area. An enigma to previous civilizations, scientific study has revealed that these peculiar objects are deposits left behind by glacial ice as it glided across vast distances. In addition to these sculptures and a suite of related photographs in the front gallery, Charrière’s film *And Beneath It All Flows Liquid Fire*, 2019 will be on view in the lower gallery. Filmed in Lugano, Switzerland, the video shows the Antonio Bossi Fountain in the Piazza Rizzio Rezzonico at night, spewing fire to create a sense of ambiguity. Society has regarded fossil fuels as limitless, however, the exhaustion of these resources and the consequences of their destructive forces becomes inevitable. Charrière’s fountain combines these themes to stress the coexistence of both elements and forces. Throughout the exhibition, in direct and complex ways, Charrière juxtaposes fire and ice, harnessing their oppositional nature to symbolize change and transformation.