

ART CYPRIEN GAILLARD

Laura Bartlett Gallery

Ends Saturday 16 December

[22 Leathermarket St](#) T:020 7403 3714 Tube: London Bridge **FREE**

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"There is more poetry... in a single tree which has endured the years and the seasons, than in the entire facade of a palace," wrote the philosopher [Diderot](#). In [Cyprien Gaillard](#)'s first exhibition in the UK, *The Lake Arches*, the modern French artist plays with such enlightenment ideals in atmospheric works of [Land art](#). In one film of an industrial explosion in a forested landscape around a chateau outside Paris, the camera pans a rising cloud of smoke and settles to create an evocative picture of leafy trees framed by a balustrade. Part V of the series *Real Remnants Of Fictive Wars*, the film disturbs and re-composes the classical view of nature to capture its nascent [poetry](#). And yet, Gaillard appears just as engaged with contemporary spaces. Inspired by the Land artist [Robert Smithson](#) (best known for *Spiral Jetty*), Gaillard travels from France to the [Utah](#) in photos evoking global dialogues of political and ecological instability. In *Geographical Analogies*, the artist juxtaposes Polaroids which detail entropic landscapes: cemeteries and deserts, tower blocks and waterfalls, and solitary trees in built-up suburbs of Europe and the US. Such tranquil insights into hidden corners encourage reflections on the vital need to preserve our natural environment.

NB: [runs](#) till 16/12.