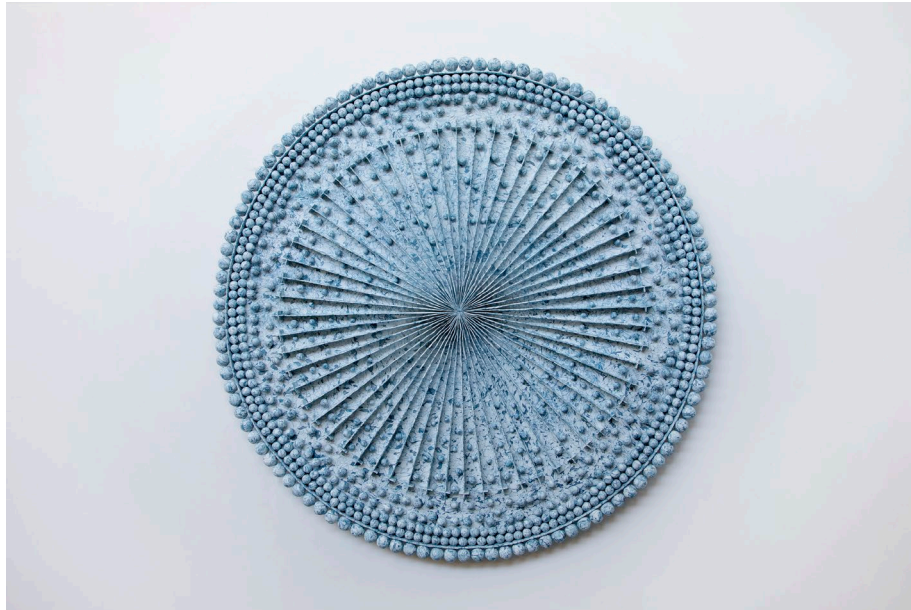


SYMBOLS OF PERSUASION



Levi van Veluw, *Serenity*, 2022, 188cm, polymer clay, pigments and metal frame

Symbols of Persuasion
10 May – 16 June 2022

Symbols of Persuasion brings together several bodies of the artist's work in the tradition of *Beyond Matter* and a brand new series of clay and pigments works created entirely by hand which shall be exhibited for the first time internationally.

This second solo exhibition of the artist at gallery rosenfeld will feature a new site-specific installation entitled *The Archive* that will engulf the entirety of one of the downstairs spaces. Created in a darkened atmosphere where a repository of the artist's objects are amassed together, this space will resemble a damp lit room in a disused religious building where these objects have been collected as if in neglected art storage. The installation is a culmination of van Veluw's research for the last three years and investigates the relation between the rational, the spiritual and the material.

Drawing on the experience of having a grandfather who is a minister, the artist has always been fascinated by the idea of religion and the many artefacts which surround it.

All van Veluw's projects up to this moment have been concerned with creating alternative worlds which somehow bear a vague semblance to ours whilst also remaining very distinct. He intends to open up vistas of another world to stimulate our reflection on the world we inhabit. This concept applies equally well to religion(s). It is the inherent mystery surrounding religious objects and the ideas, beliefs, and fears that they can conjure up in the viewer which so fascinates him as the process is close to his aims. As religions have their basis in belief, the images, whatever they recount, are always open to interpretation which avoids anything becoming too didactic.

There are various possible interpretations as with all the artist's works; could this be because of a war in the act or a nuclear disaster or could this be the destiny of 'art works' which fall out of fashion consigning these previous pieces to be considered artistically irrelevant? A major sculpture in the exhibition is a large circular work that on first viewing resembles a large rose window typical of those found on many facades of medieval gothic cathedrals. However, within the individual rays which in the Christian tradition refer to Christ's dominance over the earth, the artist has placed a series of round blue balls. The balls which appear in various guises during the exhibition could be a reference to the planets or simply provide an alternative reference point to deciphering the sculpture's inherent mystery. Once again, drawing on a symbolic cornerstone of the Christian religion, van Veluw has transformed it into a new object which has maintained all the beauty of the original.

The kinetic sculpture *Planetary Chapel*, as with many of the artist's recent works, contains a very intricate mechanism which opens the chapel doors revealing a mysterious golden chapel within which contains a series of golden spheres which rotate mystically in the space. These create a spiritual atmosphere redolent of a Christian travelling altar. We shall also be exhibiting van Veluw's recent paintings all of which are bathed in a magical blue light adding to the accumulation of this eerie metaphysical universe which the artist has drawn us into. His extraordinary ability in various mediums whether it be installation, sculpture, painting, drawing, or video gives his exhibitions a real sense of completeness and where the sensation of entering another universe is palpable. In a contemporary art world where so many artists appear to work in similar ways when one finds a completely original and highly complex voice, it becomes very precious indeed.

For this occasion gallery rosenfeld will be hosting a book signing with the artist during the private view on 10th May 2022.