

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“FRAGMENTS OF FUTURE HISTORIES” by Cédric Maridet
5 March - 23 April 2016**

**Opening Reception: Saturday, 5 March 2016, 4 - 6:30pm
Artist will be present.**

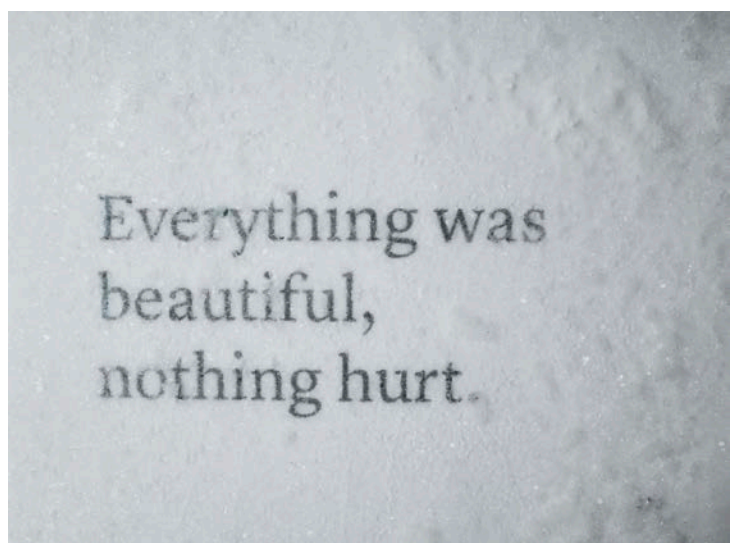
Venue: Blindspot Gallery (15/F, Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong)

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm (Sunday and Monday by appointment only); closed on public holidays

Blindspot Gallery is pleased to present “FRAGMENTS OF FUTURE HISTORIES”, a solo show featuring the works of Cédric Maridet. The collection of videos, objects, installations, photographs and sculptures on display embodies Maridet’s practice that relies on intensive fieldwork and research from literature, science or history.

The exhibition – which takes its title from Gabriel Tarde’s post-apocalyptic novella – induces an investigation in the connections between man and the exploration of his environment. Inspired by fieldwork in the Arctic Circle and especially in the abandoned Russian mining town of Pyramida in the Archipelago of Svalbard, the works unfold a mesh of narratives based on the poles and Mars’ explorations, creating different possible narrative trajectories through reenactments, simulations, interventions, and documentation.

The series of crystallised book pages entitled *Last Words* form an ice archived set of material that can be interpreted as fictitious found diaries. The quotes, taken from the last sentences or epitaphs from science fiction novels from the 19th and 20th centuries, frame the journey with particular psychological postures. A similar thread resonates in the installation *Rise, Fall*, a revisiting of Admiral Fitzroy’s weather forecast invention used on Darwin’s expeditions, where the crystals represent a three dimensional model of a possible fluctuating geologic terrain to be constantly scrutinised.





The two landscape reductions installed on equilateral tables as parts of a larger Buckmeister Fuller's map projection are attempts to conquer a territory. *Fast Kill* (consists of an insecticide can and metal scrap) deploys a strategy of technological control, while *Pyramida* (consists of coal, glacier water and air from the Arctic) shows a mere scientific approach. *The Last Image of Kosmos 1154* is a reenactment of the first close-up TV image of Mars as done by NASA scientists in 1965, who used a real-time data translator machine to convert a Mariner 4 digital image data into numbers printed on strips of paper. With the

contemporary context of witnessing the re-entry into space of Russian rocket Kosmos 1154 launched in January 1980, the work reenacts a similar making, yet reverses the process of revealing an image through the slow process of drawing according to the brightness values of the last image of the rocket bursting into flames on the evening of the 12 October 2014 in the sky of Svalbard.

Blindspot Gallery will also open a group exhibition "A Permanent Instant: instant photography from 1980s-2000s by Hong Kong artists" on the same day. Artist will be present at the opening reception. Interviews are welcome and can be arranged.

Blindspot Gallery will be participating in Art|Basel Hong Kong this year in the GALLERIES section (Booth 3C36) during 24-26 March featuring Leung Chi Wo, Trevor Yeung and Zhang Xiao.

About Cédric Maridet

Born in 1973, Cédric Maridet is an artist based in Hong Kong. He studied literature and sociolinguistics in Paris VII University, and holds a PhD in Media Arts (City University of Hong Kong). His practice includes intensive field works and research to create video, installations, photography, sound compositions and works on paper that construct narratives based on history, fiction or science. Maridet has participated in residencies, group and solo exhibitions internationally including Tate Modern in UK, Para Site and Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong. He was awarded Prize of Excellence in the Hong Kong Art Biennial 2005, Gold Award in Media Arts category at the 19th IFVA, and the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2014 – Artist of the Year (Media Arts). In 2013, he was commended by Secretary of Home Affairs for making outstanding contributions to the development of arts and culture. Maridet currently lives and works in Hong Kong.

About Blindspot Gallery

Blindspot Gallery was set up in 2010 to bring contemporary photography, an art form that was in the blind spot of the Hong Kong art scene, to a higher degree of visibility. We feature contemporary photography and image based works of established and emerging artists, mainly from the region but also beyond.

For enquiries and media interviews, please contact Ms. Lesley Kwok at 2517 6238 or by email info@blindspotgallery.com

Image captions:

Cédric Maridet, *Last Words: Everything was beautiful, nothing hurt*, 2016, Digital offset print, crystallised sodium tetraborate, resin, acrylic box, 32 x 45 cm

Cédric Maridet, *Interventions: We were drifting all along*, 2015, Lambda print, 40 x 60 cm, Edition of 3

(Image courtesy of artist and Blindspot Gallery)