

Nocturnes: i diorami di Patrick Jacobs in cui il paesaggio si fa splendido e ambiguo

December 17, 2019



Patrick Jacobs, Marsh with Anemones, 2019 Diorama viewed through 4.5 in. (11.4 cm) window. 15.25 (H) x 14.5 (W) x 12 (D) in. (39 x 37 x 30 cm). Styrene, clay, paper, foam, wood, acrylic, steel, lighting, BK7 glass.

L'artista statunitense Patrick Jacobs realizza degli stupefacenti diorami. Paesaggi iperrealisti, grandi in linea di massima tra i 5 e i 20 centimetri per lato, che si guardano attraverso una lente concava, quasi uno spioncino nel muro che dà accesso a dei veri e propri universi paralleli in cui la luce intensa e vibrante accompagna lo sguardo per orizzonti apparentemente sconfinati.

Jacobs rende omaggio alla pittura rinascimentale con ambienti costituiti di sculture minutissime. Rappresentazioni tanto puntigliose da sembrare fotografie ritoccate. Scampoli evocativi di natura, profondi, in realtà, soltanto pochi centimetri. Che assecondano la loro tensione verso l'infinito, attraverso l'artificio (l'illuminazione interna nascosta, la curvatura della lente che allontana il punto di fuga e addolcisce il rigore della prospettiva). Il paesaggio in tutta la sua sublime bellezza è fatto con pazienza e i materiali più disparati (carta, plastica, gel acrilico, metallo etc.) talvolta curiosi (capelli, borotalco, peli di gatto etc.).

Patrick Jacobs (1971, Merced, CA, USA) vive e lavora a Brooklyn, New York. Ha studiato all'Università di Klagenfurt, in Austria e alla University of West Florida (nel 1994) e ha ottenuto un MFA presso la School of the Art Institute di Chicago (nel 1999). Costruisce i suoi micro-mondi da anni ormai. L'idea gli venne sfogliando le brochures di aziende chimiche specializzate in antiparassitari per il giardino e la casa.

Questo particolare svela l'ambiguità dell'opera di Jacobs, che da una parte ci mette di fronte a un mondo idilliaco e dall'altra lo carica di un'inquietudine latente. Anzi nei lavori più recenti, la serie dei Nocturnes, a momenti si potrebbe giurare che dei mostriciattoli ci sorridano in modo malevolo nel rigoglio della vegetazione, nascosti dalle ombre di uno psichedelico imbrunire.

"I nuovi mondi da sogno di Patrick Jacobs- scrive la galleria [The Pool New York City](#)- incuriosiscono sempre più lo spettatore, che nell'atto voyeuristico di sbirciare attraverso la finestrella, si sente ancora più intrigato davanti a forme inattese e al contempo riconoscibili e assai familiari. Siamo di fronte a paesaggi di una fantasia conturbante, poetici, folli e seducenti."

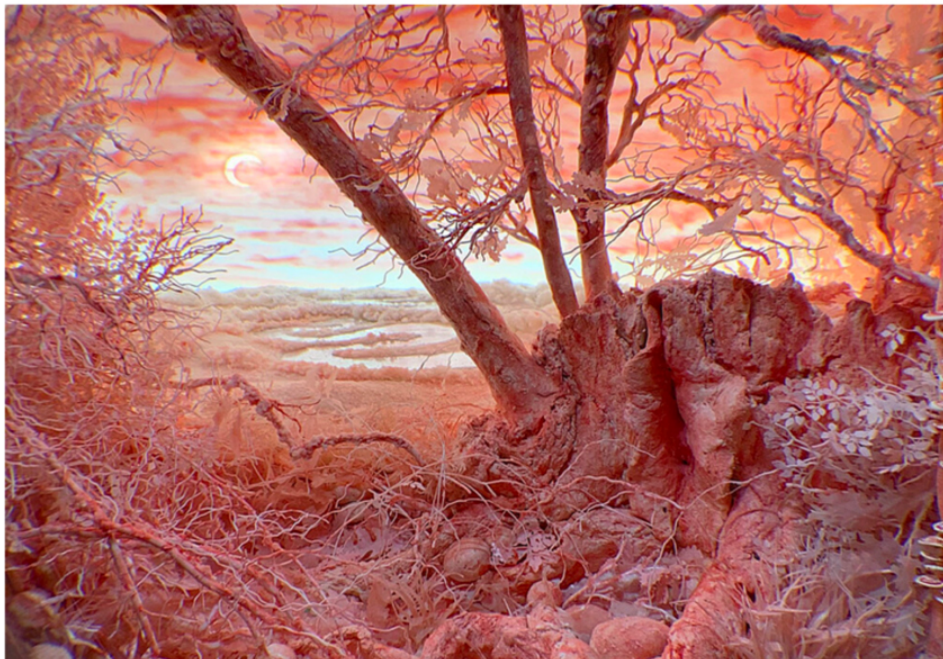
[Patrick Jacobs](#), che l'anno scorso il New York Times ha inserito [tra i 30 artisti da vedere assolutamente](#) alla fiera d'arte contemporanea Armory Show, è attualmente in mostra alla galleria [The Pool New York City](#) di Milano. L'esposizione si intitola *Nocturnes* e presenta proprio una carrellata della sua produzione più recente, diorami naturalmente, ma anche opere grafiche e le sculture della serie *Les Fleurs du Mal* (fino al 15 febbraio)



Marsh with Anemones, 2019 (detail) Diorama viewed through 4.5 in. (11.4 cm) window. 15.25 (H) x 14.5 (W) x 12 (D) in. (39 x 37 x 30 cm). Styrene, clay, paper, foam, wood, acrylic, steel, lighting, BK7 glass.



Pink Sickle Moon with Stars, 2019 Diorama viewed through 2.75 in. (7cm) window 4.75 (H) x 11.25 (W) x 9.25 (D) in. (12 x 28.5 x 23 cm). Styrene, clay, paper, foam, wood, acrylic, steel, lighting, BK7 glass



Pink Sickle Moon with Stars, 2019 (deatail) Diorama viewed through 2.75 in. (7cm) window 4.75 (H) x 11.25 (W) x 9.25 (D) in. (12 x 28.5 x 23 cm). Styrene, clay, paper, foam, wood, acrylic, steel, lighting, BK7 glass



Raked Leaves (Apparition) 2019 Diorama viewed through 7.5 in. (19 cm) window. 19 (H) x 24 (W) x 22.5 (D) in. (48 x 61 x 57 cm). Styrene, acrylic, paper, polyurethane foam, clay, acrylite, vinyl film, wood, steel, lighting, BK7 glass.



Raked Leaves (Apparition) 2019 (deatail) Diorama viewed through 7.5 in. (19 cm) window. 19 (H) x 24 (W) x 22.5 (D) in. (48 x 61 x 57 cm). Styrene, acrylic, paper, polyurethane foam, clay, acrylite, vinyl film, wood, steel, lighting, BK7 glass.



Marsh with Moon and Stars, 2019 Diorama viewed through 4.5 in. (11.4 cm) window. 15.25 (H) x 14.5 (W) x 12 (D) in. (39 x 37 x 30.5 cm). Styrene, clay, paper, foam, wood, acrylic, steel, lighting, BK7 glass.



Marsh with Moon and Stars, 2019 (detail) Diorama viewed through 4.5 in. (11.4 cm) window. 15.25 (H) x 14.5 (W) x 12 (D) in. (39 x 37 x 30.5 cm). Styrene, clay, paper, foam, wood, acrylic, steel, lighting, BK7 glass.



Yellow Eclipse, 2018 Diorama viewed through 2.75 in. (7 cm) window. 11 (H) x 14.5 (W) x 9.25 (D) in. (28 x 37 x 23 cm). Styrene, clay, paper, foam, wood, acrylic, steel, lighting, BK7 glass.



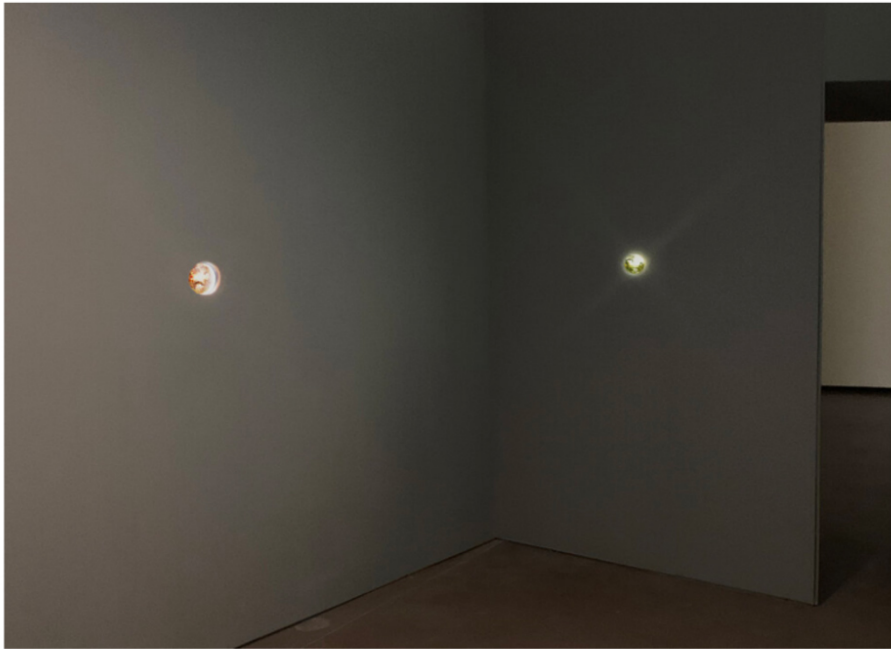
Yellow Eclipse, 2018 (detail) Diorama viewed through 2.75 in. (7 cm) window. 11 (H) x 14.5 (W) x 9.25 (D) in. (28 x 37 x 23 cm). Styrene, clay, paper, foam, wood, acrylic, steel, lighting, BK7 glass.




Blue-Green Moonlight, 2019 Diorama viewed through 4.5 in. (11.4 cm) window. 15.25 (H) x 14.5 (W) x 12 (D) in. (39 x 37 x 30 cm). Styrene, clay, paper, foam, wood, acrylic, steel, lighting, BK7 glass.



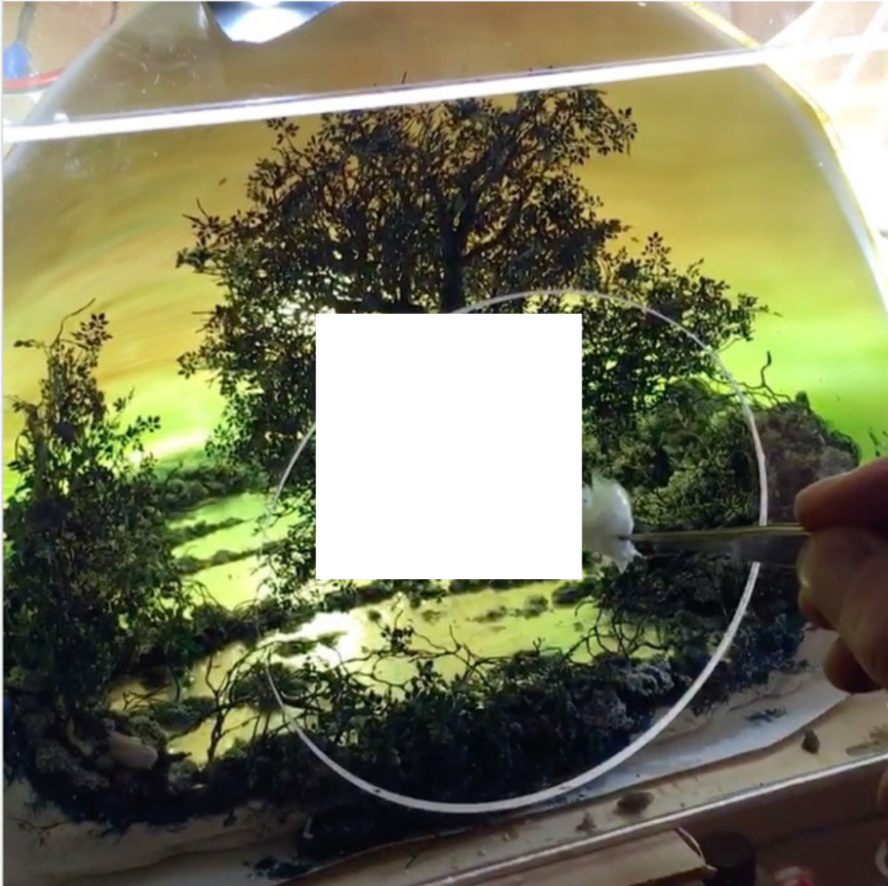
Silver Moonscape, 2018 Diorama viewed through 7.5 in. (19 cm) window. 20 (H) x 28 (W) x 20 (D) in. (51 x 71 x 51 cm). Styrene, clay, paper, foam, wood, acrylic, steel, lighting, BK7 glass



Installation View: Room of Nocturnes Dimensions Variable. 120 (h) x 180 (w) x 312 (d) in. Wood, paint, five dioramas. Soundtrack by John Zorn.

 **thepoolnyc**
THE POOL NYC

[View Profile](#)



[View More on Instagram](#)

The Instagram post features a close-up of a hand using a thin tool to adjust a small white object within a circular diorama. The diorama is set against a vibrant, glowing green background. The scene is lit with dramatic, high-contrast lighting, creating a sense of depth and focus on the intricate details of the artwork.



CONTEMPORARY ART BLOG AND NOT ONLY

Nocturnes: the dioramas of Patrick Jacobs in which the landscape becomes splendid and ambiguous

December 17, 2019

The American artist [Patrick Jacobs](#) makes amazing dioramas. Hyper-realistic landscapes, large in principle between 5 and 20 centimeters per side, which look through a concave lens, almost a peephole in the wall that gives access to real parallel universes in which intense and vibrant light accompanies the gaze for seemingly boundless horizons.

Jacobs pays homage to Renaissance painting with rooms made up of tiny sculptures. Representations so meticulous as to seem retouched photographs. Remnants of nature, deep, in reality, only a few centimeters. They support their tension towards infinity, through artifice (hidden internal lighting, the curvature of the lens that removes the vanishing point and softens the rigor of perspective). The landscape in all its sublime beauty is made with patience and the most disparate materials (paper, plastic, acrylic gel, metal etc.) sometimes curious (hair, talcum powder, cat hair etc.).

Patrick Jacobs (1971, Merced, CA, USA) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. He studied at the University of Klagenfurt, Austria and the University of West Florida (in 1994) and obtained an MFA from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago (in 1999). It has been building its micro-worlds for years now. The idea came to him by leafing through the brochures of chemical companies specializing in pesticides for the garden and the home.

This detail reveals the ambiguity of Jacobs' work, which on the one hand puts us in front of an idyllic world and on the other loads it with a latent restlessness. Indeed in the most recent works, the series of [Nocturnes](#), one could swear at times that little monsters smile at us in a malevolent way in the luxuriance of the vegetation, hidden by the shadows of a psychedelic dusk.

"The new dream worlds of Patrick Jacobs - writes [The Pool New York City](#) - increasingly intrigue the viewer, who in the voyeuristic act of peering through the window, feels even more intrigued in front of unexpected and at the same time recognizable and very familiar. We are faced with landscapes of a disturbing, poetic, crazy and seductive fantasy ."

[Patrick Jacobs](#), who the New York Times included last year [among the 30 must-see artists](#) at the Armory Show contemporary art fair, is currently on display at [The Pool New York City](#) gallery in Milan. The exhibition is titled *Nocturnes* and presents a rundown of his most recent production, dioramas of course, but also graphic works and sculptures from the *Les Fleurs du Mal* series (until February 15)