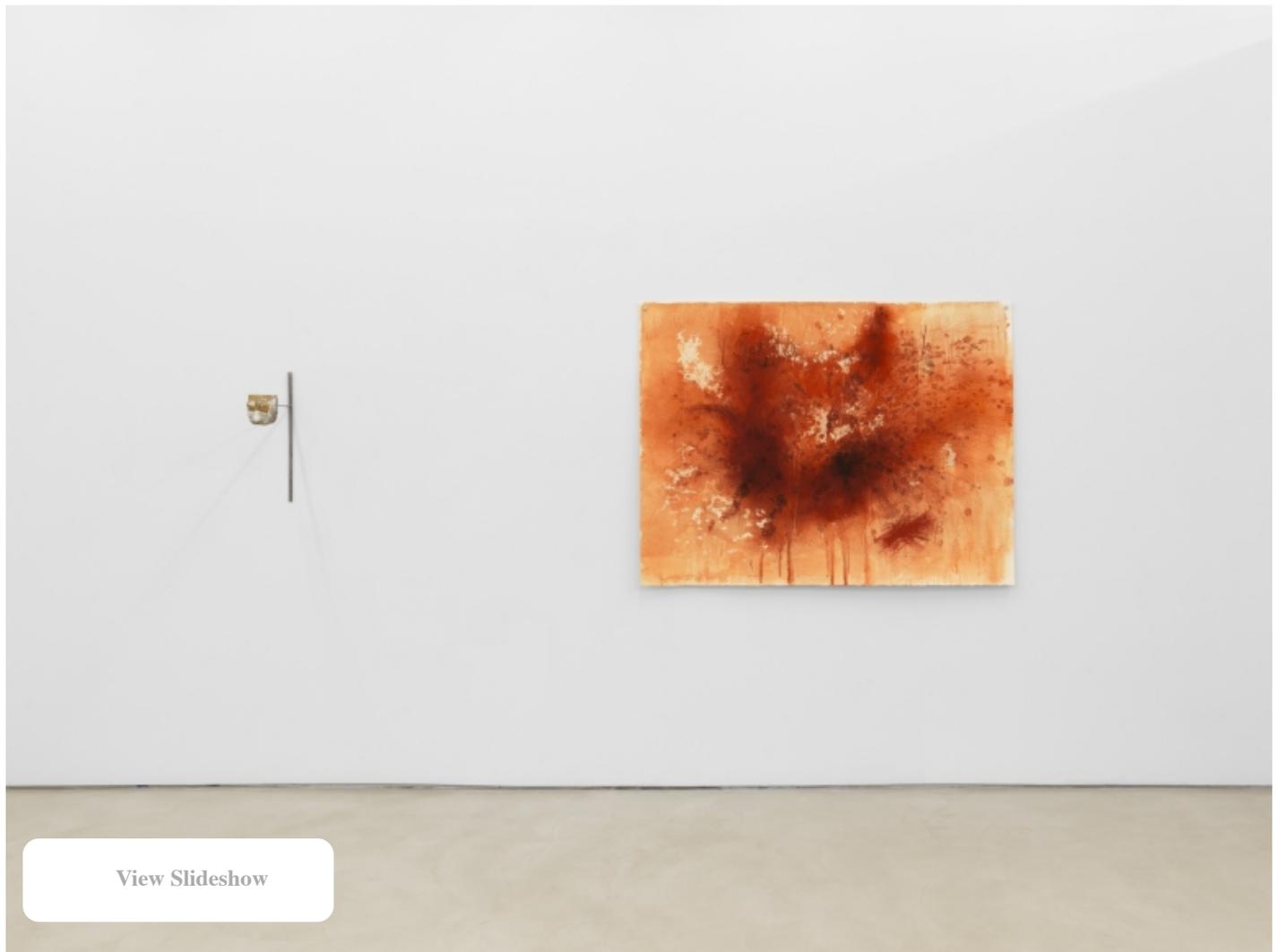


# Ricardo Brey's "Doble Existencia / Double Existence" at Alexander Gray Associates, New York

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"Doble Existencia / Double Existence," 2019, by Ricardo Brey, Installation view, Alexander Gray Associates  
(Courtesy: Alexander Gray Associates)

Alexander Gray Associates, New York, is hosting its first exhibition of works by [Ricardo Brey](#) (b. 1955) titled "Doble Existencia / Double Existence."

Featuring a selection of recent work encompassing the artist's ongoing exploration of philosophical concepts like time, mythology, human expression, and the natural universe, the show runs through April 6, 2019.

For his recent work Brey continues to investigate seemingly oppositional aspects of the human experience — the inherent tensions between binary concepts like life and death, dreams and nightmares, masculinity and femininity, black and white, manmade and organic — signaling an ongoing condition for the artist: what he refers to as “a double existence.”

“Borrowing the term from Swedish playwright August Strindberg, the phrase reflects competing yet complementary threads of consciousness that inform Brey's artistic practice as hybrid and rhizomatic,” says the gallery.

Recent large-format drawings from Brey's “Inferno” series like “Stormclouds” (2017) and “Roots” (2017) encapsulate the melancholy embedded in this dualism, as well as new sculptural works like “Leo” (2018) and “Meditatie” (2018), which reference both Flemish architecture and Yoruba spirituality.

His work “Rose of Jericho” is a mysterious black archival box opens and unfurls to reveal a small, wilted flower protected by a glass dome. “Each wall of the box, lined with delicate paper bearing ornamental Baroque-inspired patterns, becomes a platform for the display of elements like frayed strands of rope and an accordion-style booklet, bearing original drawings incorporating the artist's own handwriting and glistening silver pigment,” states the press note by the gallery.

“At the box's central axis, above a nest of cardboard, sits the rose of Jericho, informally known as the ‘resurrection plant’ for its ability to survive after prolonged periods of drought. During arid climate seasons, the plant's branches curve inward in a protective gesture, however, when exposed to small amounts of water, awaken from dormancy and flourish, in some cases even blossoming small flowers,” the gallery adds.

“The box is our head, the box is our cave, the box is the attic, the box is the memory and the world. The boxes are an attempt to spatially represent... a hermeneutics of the soul to create a topography of the mind,” states Brey.

*The exhibition is on view through April 6, 2019, at Alexander Gray Associates, 510 West 26 Street, New York NY 10001- US.*

*For details, visit: <http://www.blouinartinfo.com/galleryguide/alexander-gray-associates/overview>*