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Anthony Viscardi

Tracing Time to Measure Space: New Drawings and Constructions



Topic: Art Architecture and Design

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MEDIATING BETWEEN REALITIES

Liberating architecture from the practical constraints of building, American artist Anthony Viscardi examines the space between art and architecture through explorations of solid/void, presence/absence, static/dynamic, and material/ephemeral continuums. Using drawing, a practice common to both art and architecture, Viscardi employs Rapidograph, ink wash, and graphite to reveal intricately detailed examinations of shadow and void. These shadow mappings have been the basis of the artist's twenty-year practice and pedagogy, and most recently, are the subject of this compelling exhibition Tracing Time to Measure Space which articulates the artist's process through drawings and three-dimensional constructions. Generated from time-based interactions during three periodic intervals of day — morning, noon and night — the ephemeral play of shadows is made static through sequential tracings that collapse space and time into one singular composite drawing. The resultant drawings, referred to by the artist as primitives, visually map the process that is both the basis for Viscardi's practice and the subject matter of his work. Viscardi's process is derived from traditional architectural drawing methods that privilege the hand and eye.

While contemporary architectural practice has indeed shifted from handcraft to digital design, the process by which external factors (formulas rather than light) affect or influence the built form is still prevalent today. In this way, Viscardi's practice is very much relevant to contemporary discourse while also remaining true to the craft of handmade fabrication with its attention to detail. This intimate process of drawing as a multisensory and intuitive experience is fundamental to all of Viscardi's work. The drawings in this exhibition result from the collusion of phenomena: the physicality of the object casting a shadow, the quality of light in real time and space, and the negotiation between the materials and the artist's hand.





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