

ALEX PRAGER
SILVER LAKE DRIVE

Alex Prager, *Desiree*, from *The Big Valley*, 2018
© Courtesy Alex Prager Studio and Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong

MBAL is hosting the first retrospective of American photographer and filmmaker Alex Prager (b. 1979), one of the most iconic artists of our time. Prager's unique body of work, built up over the past ten years, consists of photographs and films whose common denominator is a meticulously crafted *mise-en-scène*. An undeniable sense of Hollywood and pop culture permeates the work of this self-taught, Los Angeles-based artist. This exhibition brings together her most important series of photographs, which together evoke a universe filled with drama, emotion and humor. Los Angeles serves as both inspiration and backdrop for her compositions – carefully staged scenes bathed in an atmosphere both intriguing and seductive. Prager favors complex sets, unafraid to deploy hundreds of extras who, lost in thought, are given equal standing in her quasi *tableaux vivants*. She recreates everyday scenes with her trademark attention to detail, yet her artifice is invariably betrayed by a solitary female figure in the crowd, isolated by an angst all her own. The exhibition also includes five films – Prager describes her immersive film installations as 'full-sensory versions' of her photographs. At once timeless and era-specific, Prager's instantly recognizable aesthetic veers between fantasy and hyperrealism. Hers is a world governed by a palpable tension between fact and fiction, superficiality and depth.

This exhibition is organized by MBAL, in collaboration with Lehmann Maupin Gallery in New York. A book – published in English by Thames & Hudson and in French by Éditions Textuel – traces the brilliant trajectory of an artist whose work has been shown in some of the most prestigious museums in the world.

**MUSÉE DES
BEAUX-ARTS
LE LOCLE**

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PARTNERS

The Museum of Fine Arts Le Locle is based on public funding from the city of Le Locle, and is supported by the Société des Beaux-Arts et du Musée, Le Locle, at the origin of the museum's foundation in 1864. All the exhibitions are supported by Loterie romande. The programs for families and kids are supported by Clientis-Caisse d'Epargne CEC.



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GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

Musée des beaux-arts
Marie-Anne Calame 6
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HOURS

Wed – Sun, 11 am – 5 pm

ADMISSION

Adults : CHF 8
APS, students, apprentices and unemployed : CHF 5
Children 16 and under : free admission
First Sunday of the month : free admission

OPENING

Friday, November 2, 6:30 pm

PRESS CONTACT

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