Buhmann on Art

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THE HIDDEN PASSENGERS
Organized by Avi Lubin, this exhibition features works by several well-known names, among them Mark Dion, Pierre Huyghe, and Roxy Paine. In the past, scientists often employed artists to illustrate the results of their research and sometimes, scientists were artists in their own right (think of Ernst Haeckel and his famous “Art forms of Nature”). Today, film, photography, and digital animation no longer make art and science co-dependent.

As a twist, this exhibition picks works that use science as a source of inspiration, albeit without getting lost in truisms. Whereas science aspires to systematically accumulate knowledge and understand the universe from an outside perspective, artists often attempt the opposite. Working from within, they do not assume to understand the world (nor do they long to explain it). Instead, they aim for sparking our imagination and — not unlike Pierre Huyghe’s “A Journey That Wasn’t” — succeed in blending the possible with the impossible.
Guido van der Werve: “Nummer zeven (the clouds are more beautiful from above)” | 2006, video projection, 8:48 min. (video still). Courtesy of the artist & apexart

Through July 26, at apexart (291 Church St., btw. Walker & White Sts.). Hours: Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Call 212-431-5270 or visit apexart.org.

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