

## BLURB

'Stubborn', 'hermetic' and 'seductive' were the words that came to mind when I first encountered the work of the Quistrebort brothers. Their collages and paintings contain maniacal mathematical constraints that are juxtaposed with the organic character of the materials with which they are implemented. Geometric and abstract shapes seem to form the basis for a continuous 'battle' between the rational and the intuitive. Even though the works resemble early Constructivist and Futurist traditions, there appears to be a larger fascination with the possibility of material itself and to what extent it wants to be controlled. The paintings and collages deploy early avant-garde symbolic language, in which the sublime is represented through notions of symmetry and doubling. Furthermore, ideas such as the absolute and the eternal are further utilised in the duo's videos and films, whereby the structuring and mirroring of images becomes the grid for the production. Here again, in a rather self-reflexive manner by bringing high and low culture together, surface becomes subject matter. It feels as if the Quistrebort brothers try to achieve excellence in order to possibly operate on a higher spiritual level. For this hermetic obsession with order and surface is not merely one of aesthetic value, but of longing for the inexplicable and the mythical. In such a way, the aesthetic becomes itself, and simply refuses to be contextualised and further explained. I even wonder if their work would really need these words.

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