

# Zoe Leonard

## *Al río / To the River*

15 October 2022 – 29 January 2023



**From 15 October 2022 to 29 January 2023 the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris is hosting photographer Zoe Leonard's exhibition *Al río / To the River*. Although rarely shown in France, Leonard is a leading figure on the international scene.**

Zoe Leonard (b. 1961, Liberty, New York) works with photography, sculpture and installation. Her photographs are often grounded in observations of daily life, while also drawing attention to the physical and bodily act of looking. Migration and displacement, gender and sexuality, mourning and loss, cultural history and tensions between the natural world and human-built environments are recurring themes.

*Al río / To the River* is a large-scale photographic work which takes the Rio Grande, as it is named in the United States, or Río Bravo, as it is named in Mexico, as its subject. Over a period of four years, beginning in 2016, Leonard photographed along the 2,000 kilometres where the river is used to demarcate the international boundary between Mexico and the United States of America. "The shifting nature of a river – which floods periodically, changes course and carves new channels – is at odds with the political task it is asked to perform" says Leonard.

Following the river from the border cities of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico and El Paso, Texas, to the Gulf of Mexico, *Al río / To the River* is composed of close observations of the river itself and the natural and built environments around it. In Leonard's photographs, daily life unfolds in tandem with agriculture, industry, commerce, policing, and surveillance with a particular focus on the accumulation of infrastructure built into and alongside the river to control the flow of water, the passage of goods, and the movement of people.

## PRESS RELEASE

### Museum Director

Fabrice Hergott

### Curators

Jessica Castex

Olivia Gaultier-Jeanroy

assisted by Margot Koutsomitis

### Follow MAM



[mam.paris.fr](http://mam.paris.fr)

Zoe Leonard *Al río / To the River*, 2016–2022  
Gelatin silver prints, C-prints and inkjet prints  
Exhibition Copy  
Edition of 3 + 1 AP  
Courtesy l'artiste, Galerie Gisela Capitain et  
Hauser & Wirth  
Production of *Al río / To the River* supported by  
Mudam Luxembourg – Musée d'Art Moderne  
Grand-Duc Jean, the Museum of  
Contemporary Art Australia, the Graham  
Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine  
Arts, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial  
Foundation, Galerie Gisela Capitain and  
Hauser & Wirth  
© Zoe Leonard

### Visitor information

Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris

11 Avenue du Président Wilson  
75116 Paris

Tél. 01 53 67 40 00

[www.mam.paris.fr](http://www.mam.paris.fr)

Open Tuesday – Sunday

10 am – 6 pm

Late opening: Thursdays until

9:30 pm

### Ticketing

Full rate: 11 €

Concessions: 9 €

### Press Officer

Maud Ohana

[maud.ohana@paris.fr](mailto:maud.ohana@paris.fr)

Tél. 01 53 67 40 51

*Al río / To the River* engages with photographic language from abstraction to documentary to digital surveillance imagery, and in so doing, considers various histories of representation that have shaped our perceptions of both border and river.

Zoe Leonard's exhibition *Al río / To the River* is organised by Mudam Luxembourg – Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris, Paris Musées and the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia.