

Pilar Corrias

Press Release

Philippe Parreno
El Almendral
23 May–28 June 2025

Pilar Corrias
51 Conduit Street
London W1S 2YT



Philippe Parreno, *El Almendral* (still), 2024. Courtesy the artist and Pilar Corrias, London

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Pilar Corrias is pleased to present *El Almendral*, Philippe Parreno's sixth solo exhibition with the gallery and the artist's first at Conduit Street. *El Almendral* blends real landscape with cinematic creation into a hybrid form.

An almond grove is typically a garden of almond trees; here, it represents a locality, 'El Almendral'. Located within a 35-hectare plot north of the Tabernas Desert in the province of Almería, this project functions simultaneously as an ecological habitat and a dynamic film set. It is supported by a newly created park envisioned as a site of transformation where a landscape and its representation can meet.

The resulting film *El Almendral*, streams directly into the main gallery space continuously in real-time, day and night, forming a living narrative responsive to environmental shifts, seasonal cycles and silent transformations. Landscape modifications include sustainable technologies such as solar power installations, moisture-collecting cloud nets, energy-generating wind traps and biodiversity-enhancing plantings. Audiovisual equipment continuously captures environmental transformations, reflecting the site's evolving nature. Film production is approached similarly to agriculture – images are metaphorically cultivated, harvested and edited, paralleling local farming practices. Uniquely, the project grants the landscape legal self-ownership, recognising its non-human nature. *El Almendral* redefines the relationship between reality and fiction, between land and landscape, transforming traditional understandings of ecological consciousness.

El Almendral premiered at Haus der Kunst, Munich as part of the artist's solo exhibition *Voices*, co-programmed with Leeum Museum of Art in Seoul (2024–2025). There, the film transcended the walls of the museum, extending it into a parallel landscape – a twin space connected by real-time data flow. These two terrains were further hybridised through *∂A*, an artificial language generated via machine learning.

Alongside *El Almendral*, the gallery will present selected works by the artist including Parreno's *Marquee* series. Initiated in 2006, Parreno's *Marquees* are unique works, individual in their form, light effect and construction. The series was inspired by the glowing, flickering neon-lit marquees which were placed above the entrances to cinemas and theatres in the mid-20th century, announcing the titles

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of films playing inside. Deprived of their original context, Parreno's *Marquees* acquire an altogether different meaning.

Philippe Parreno (b. 1964) lives and works in Paris. He graduated from École des Beaux-Arts de Grenoble in 1988 and in 1989 from Institut des Hautes Études en Arts Plastiques at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris. In 2013, he was the first artist to take over the entire 22,000 square meter gallery space at the Palais de Tokyo. In 2016 Parreno presented the Hyundai Commission in the Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London. And in 2019, Parreno was commissioned by the MoMA in New York to create a long-term, site-specific artwork. He is currently working on his next feature film starring Charlotte Gainsbourg, Zoe Saldana and Vicky Krieps.

Major exhibitions of Parreno's work include: Haus der Kunst, Munich (2024); Pola Museum of Art, Hakone (2024); Leeum Museum of Art, Seoul (2024); Pilar Corrias, London (2023); Espace Louis Vuitton, Munich (2023); Bourse de Commerce/Pinault Collection, Paris (2022); Fondation Beyeler, Basel (2021); Museo del Prado, Madrid (2021); Luma Foundation, Arles (2021); Espace Louis Vuitton Venezia, Venice (2019); Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin (2018); Art Institute Chicago (2018); Museo Jumex, Mexico City (2017); ACMI, Melbourne (2016); Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan (2015); Park Avenue Armory, New York (2015); Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai (2017); and Fundação de Serralves, Porto (2017).

Parreno's work is represented in the public collections of: Centre Pompidou, Paris; Kanazawa Museum of the 21st Century, Japan; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; Musée du Luxembourg, Luxembourg; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate Modern, London; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; LACMA, Los Angeles; MoMA, New York; MUSAC, Spain; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; and the Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis.

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