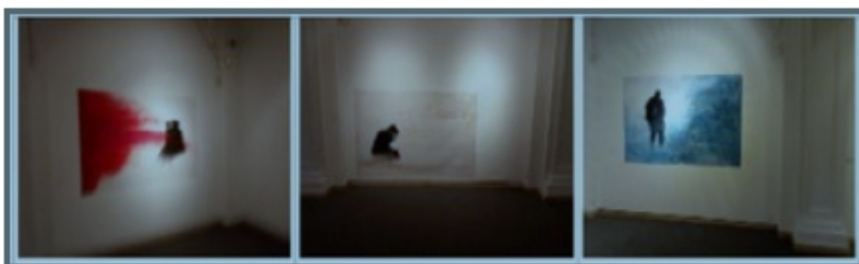


## Atmosphere

*'The state of the air surrounding an open space or contained within an enclosed space.'*  
*'In colloquial terms, atmosphere refers to the mood or ambiance surrounding a person.'*  
*'In music, atmosphere refers to elements such as harmony, melody, and rhythm.'*

In his latest exhibition at the Reus Museum, the images possess and evoke this state of 'atmosphere,' an effect of suspension—not of being held, but suspended, and in turn, suspenseful...of something that happens but never quite comes to pass.

It's not about the external light, the light of the room, the installation, but about a light within the work itself, which traps the subject inside but also the viewer. It's an atmosphere within the work but also in the space of the room; hence the work itself, but also the installation. It's about installing the atmosphere...which is impossible to install.



This atmosphere...this suspension, we have already encountered in a previous work by MJ:



*Cloudy sky  
the blue remains  
Nothing exists*

Here, everything external, that which cannot be fixed, contained, stopped, is suspended; this movement from one image to another is suspended to capture the viewer's gaze. But, as the poem aptly points out, what holds the gaze is color; color makes a poem of nature, retains it, marks it.

I prefer not to add anything more to this treatment of atmosphere, but rather to seek out some references that are important to me to place in suspension, from one to the next.

This state of *atmosphere* can be found in:

The best haiku of Matsuo Basho

A haiku is a traditional Japanese poetic form. Its most distinctive characteristic (aside from its length) is the custom of constructing them based on two images or ideas that the author wishes to connect.



Niebla matinal sobre una montaña sin nombre



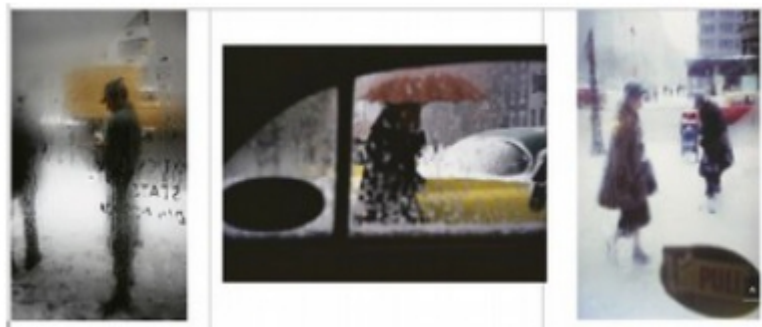
Vestido de escarcha cubierto de viento un niño abandonado

In German Romantic painting, particularly that of Caspar David Friedrich, we find this idea of atmosphere, not only on a physical level (of the landscape) but also on a spiritual level (Romanticism itself); the subject is suspended in an atmosphere.



Sunset over the Sea, 1822  
Northam Castle, Sunrise, 1845  
Monk on the Seashore, painting

Moving into modernity, we find:



Saul Leiter: In Search of Beauty

Foto Colectania showcases the work of Saul Leiter, the remarkable pioneer of color photography.

Leiter combined photography and painting throughout his life, and continued painting daily until his death in November 2013 at the age of 89. But the camera became the medium through which he captured and interpreted the life of New York City in multi-layered compositions, as well as in intimate scenes, like no one before him.