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Who are the Manitoba Moose? These words might conjure prosaic scenes of a ponderous two-meter elk traversing the Canadian tundra while pummeled by icy arctic winds, but this is not the case. The Moose were a defunct third-rate ice hockey team. Who would mount the hockey ring day in and day out, etching their dreams of Turner Cup glory into a seemingly static two-dimensional crystalloid plane. As they skate to and fro, the heat and friction created by foot-mounted steel blades branded conscious intentions of victory into a slick watery canvas whose superficial banality exhibits the Moose' daily rituals of affirmation and comradeship, despite the overwhelming likelihood of defeat. As these ice bound pugilists glide with the serene grace of a Russian ballet company, they begin to zig-zag in a closed practiced formations resembling a Big Moose as the offensive tactics of the coach ask for a wider field. Looking closer at each player's swollen face reveals mouths agape with condescending piano key grins and vacant eyes screwed towards the fabled Dirac sea materializing below their tired feet.

As the debauched screeches of revelry, the modern notions of positivism and empirical reality begin to fade away, the etchings emanate fiery amber and resemble the edges of long forgotten occult geometries, hermetic prostrations that strive to illuminate transcendental truths that exist beyond the material cosmos. The ritual only becomes complete upon the entrance of a peculiar and indelible contraption known simply as the Zamboni, whose job it is to clean and resurface the ice anew. The Zamboni is our Hermes, on a quest of transmuting perpetual loss into victory, nigredo to albedo.

With the Moose as their Virgil, this summer Juliette Jongma gallery presents *Zamboni for the Moose*, curated by Juliaan Andeweg. With participation by the artists: Thomas Raat (NL), Florian & Michael Quistrebart (FR), Gareth Nyandoro (ZW), Tamy Ben Tor (IL), Miki Carmi (IL), Mike Pratt (UK), Anne de Vries (NL), Kareem Lotfy (EG), Paul Geelen (NL), Anders Nordby (NO), Timmy van Zoelen (NL), Nancy Acid (AW), Julian Sirre (NL).

Laurence Henriquez

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