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## ART CRITIC

# What binds us to the stars

Juan Bufill

Elena Kervinen's work does not fit easily to the categories that are usually applied to contemporary art. Her drawings look timeless and evoke a romantic sensibility, yet her vision of reality is a 21st century one. Her landscapes seem at the same time mineral and aerial, terrestrial and celestial. Their materiality finds its complement in light, and this also happens through the chosen techniques: in many works she draws not with a graphite pencil on paper, but with a gold tip on marble. A medieval and forgotten technique on a support considered sculptural.

El title of the exhibition that she is presenting at the El Quadern Robat gallery refers to a secret fabric that unites or relates everything that exists. The romantic



poet Novalis inaugurated a new vision that inspired some of the best modern paintings, from some of Paul Klee to much of the work of Joan Miró, and notably its culmination, which is the *constellations* series. But one of the singularities of Kervinen's recent work is her way of evoking the distant and the cosmos through figurative and metarealistic representations of specific landscapes, mountains and clouds.

Her vision seems to be about to access other dimensions and microscopic or universal scales. And yet, paradoxically, she remains here and now, before places and moments that seem awakened by a temporary illumination, which will be followed by a concealment.

**'ZOOM I'** (2014)  
 Pencil and gold  
 point on marble by  
 Elena Kervinen. El  
 Quadern Robat

Gallery, Barcelona,  
 until May 14.  
 Prices: between  
**800 i 8,000 euros**  
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