

Wilhelmina's Art Gallery / Reuter Bausch Art Gallery

Wilhelmina's Art Gallery is pleased to present *The World Inside / Out*, a duo exhibition with emerging artists Ugo Li represented by Reuter Bausch Art Gallery (Luxembourg) and Lucie Picandet, represented by Galerie Georges-Philippe & Nathalie Vallois (Paris). The exhibition is hosted by Wilhelmina's Art Gallery & Reuter Bausch Art Gallery on the 31st July 2024 at the Keresbino Manor House on Hydra island and will end 4th September 2024.

Ugo Li, born in 1987, is a French painter who currently lives and works in Paris, France. Improvisation is at the heart of the artist's work. A graduate of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Rouen, his paintings are the result of a process of experiences, a way of physically transposing representations accumulated in his memory. It can be the re-transcription of punctual and existential emotions, or of precise events linked to his life: autobiography is very close and sweeps through the essence of his work. Ugo Li has had solo shows in Paris Luxembourg and Thailand as well as featuring in group shows in Canada and Portugal.

Lucie Picandet, born in 1982 is a French painter who lives and works in Fontainebleau, France. Writing is essential in Picandet's work. She writes many novels in verse and prose, which are the starting point of her productions. Whatever the medium, the artist depicts complex, surreal and poetic environments. A graduate of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, Picandet also studied philosophy, theology and aesthetics. Winner of the Ermige Prize in 2015, she participated in important exhibitions such as "Echantillons" held in the Irish Museum of Contemporary Art in Dublin and was awarded an Artist's Residency by the Hermès Foundation in Paris. In 2018 her work was exhibited at the Palais de Tokyo and at the Galerie Georges-Phillipe & Nathalie Vallois for the second solo show of her career.

The World Inside / Out is a theme with an inherent duality appropriate for a duo show which is explored in contrasting ways by Ugo Li and Picandet. In Ugo Li's case we have in one instance a series of amphorae, vessels designed to hold liquid inside, but whose main purpose has been displaced by its outward appearance as a quintessential hallmark of Greek antiquity. The contents - whether water or wine for daily consumption or ritual purposes are hidden. In other paintings by Ugo Li we see the opposite; naïve tables laid out exposing sumptuous food and drink about to be consumed by a person, and all too soon forgotten as they work their way through the human body.

At this point Ugo Li enters into dialogue with Picandet whose works describe in a Rabelasian way elements of the human body as worlds of their own: teeth like islands, meteorites, or gaping Hieronymous Bosch-esque, mouth-like caves that reveal hellish and surreal visions. From the bowels of the human body and the earth we then travel with Picandet outside into a cosmic realm of celestial bodies intermingling bizarrely with a miniature portrait of the Princess of York. In another painting we see a fictional prehistoric world trapped inside a snow globe next to a laboratory jar supported by dancing teeth. Contained within is a bladder filled with red liquid that upon closer inspection is a sinking sunset, the urethra four hands through which the blood-red liquid is being distilled. Picandet has depicted a transparent exterior to unveil invisible, fantastic worlds. Here we rejoin Ugo Li again. His amphorae and indeed his human figures by contrast hide everything with their attractively painted exteriors – except perhaps nostalgia.

The world outside-in to the world inside-out: this is the trajectory we are taken on by the sumptuous worlds of Ugo Li and Lucie Picandet.

Wilhelmina's Art Gallery
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