



Sarah Jérôme  
*Les éclats du crépuscule*



January 7th through February 18th, 2017

French artist Sarah Jérôme returns to the Galerie Da-End for a second solo exhibition titled 'Les éclats du crépuscule' on the occasion of which her latest works on tracing paper and sculptures will be unveiled.

Fragments of scattered bodies, masculine and feminine, inhabit this new body of work and translate a persistent plastic will from the artist to anchor human experience in the flesh. Reaffirming the existence of a continuum between body and mind, Sarah Jérôme pictures mankind trapped in a never-ending movement of oscillation between shadows and light, pain and closure.

The numerous mediums that she employs, chosen for their sensoriality as well as their semantics, visually deepen this reflexion : attraction/revulsion of oil painting and tracing paper that are chemically incompatible and yet merge in a singular ballet of colours, drippings and sedimented matter. Further, the haptic softness of wax – a material linked to the notion of reparation, with which the artist partially covers her ceramic works, tending to the metaphorical wounds of the bodies bruised by hardships and the modern society.

The artworks from the « Gardens » series, in this respect, question the individual as for his place and part in a society dominated social media exposure. Is the eye, hidden amongst luxurious foliage, that of the viewer, voyeur, indiscreet, or that of the watched one, forced to constant self-celebration, to dehumanized exchange ? In these « Gardens » much like in the « Inside » series and many other of the artist's drawings, the reigns merge in a strange game of mutations between the vegetal, the human and the animal.

Sarah Jérôme explores through the theme of metamorphosis the idea of an apathetic world in search of its own balance. « I make up scenes at the limit of myth and dream formed with hybrid creatures. The fleshs penetrate themselves, the organs tangle up. (...) This swing point of the mutating body, this « in between » state has become my field of research, » she explains. Frozen in a transitory phase just like coral whose particularity is to be both a dead and alive being, man so as to his own conservation can choose to reconcile nature and culture, reckless behaviours and pure acts of goodwill.

In all these artworks, there is an irreducible ambiguity that raises the spectator's awareness to a non-Manichean vision of the world, covered on the contrary of grey areas of a troubling attraction. At the break of day or at nightfall, while the soul hesitates between doubt and hope, Sarah Jérôme enjoins us to prize the sparkles of light crouched in each corner of shade. An aesthetic of contrast that translates into intense and vulnerable images, of a crepuscular beauty.