

GALERIE D'(A)

art contemporain

The Great Goyesque

JUNE PAPINEAU

7 MARCH – 5 APRIL 2014

Opening Reception | Thursday 6 March | 6 - 9 pm

For her second exhibition at Galerie d'(A), June Papineau carries the spectator into a phantasmagorical and Goyesque world. Fascinated by the relationship between man and nature, she has chosen Etournel marsh, on the French side of the Rhone, near Pougny, as her favourite study site for the past eight years.

When faced with a long-uprooted black poplar tree, she was bewitched by the shadowy anthropomorphic and beastly figures that sparked her imagination. Unsettling physiognomies, disturbing and even violent, but also strangely sympathetic, similar to the "Black Paintings" that the elderly, deaf and isolated Goya painted on the walls of his country dwelling, Quinta del Sordo.

For many years, this old poplar tree laid in the middle of the alluvial forest with all the pathos of an Iliad warrior fallen in battle. Once stemming out from the uppermost part of a trunk that rose straight up to the sky, its magnificent crown of gnarled and knotted branches woven to the trunk had crashed to the ground. Touched with compassion, June Papineau wished to pay homage to the tree, with the perennity of a funerary mask, to insure that its features would endure long after death. So she first spread a layer of white porcelain clay over the branches and a part of the trunk, and then set out to fix the shape by gluing small over-lapping pieces of gauze all over it. For three months she worked in situ, giving it a second skin, thus capturing for eternity the eroded crown of the black poplar tree, a descendant of a lineage destined to disappear for lack of a suitable habitat. After this long process, she succeeded in removing this "tree skin" of an unexpectedly bewitching flexibility.

The title she gave to this work, *The Great Goyesque*, refers in particular to Goya's etching "*Grande Hazaña! Con muertos!*" from the series "*The Disasters of War*", where male bodies, dismembered but ennobled with classic beauty, are fastened to the limbs of an old time-weathered beaten tree. Hardly by chance she felt instinctively that the tenebrous vegetation in the marshland was Goyesque, as in Antiquity, the place where black poplar trees grew was considered to be the threshold to the world of shadows, the home of Persephone, goddess of the underworld.

The hallucinatory force of Goya's Black Paintings resides in his mastery of light and shadow. The images taken in situ by Véronique Lachat (b.1961 in St-Ursanne, Switzerland), a photographer who has made black and white the essence of her work, are all permeated with the spirit of the *Great Goyesque*.

Born in 1958 in Manchester (Connecticut, USA). June Papineau graduated in 1985 from Bennington College (Vermont, USA) after four years of studies, including one year at Université de la Sorbonne in Paris. From 1986 to 1993, Papineau lived in Paris then in Madrid where she provided expertise to transpose the details of Spanish Romanesque architecture. She exhibits as a solo artist and in collective exhibitions and fairs in Europe, such as Art Basel in 1991 (Switzerland) and ARCO in Madrid (Spain), in French-speaking and German-speaking Switzerland, France, Spain, Italy, as well as Thailand. From 1992 to 1996, she dedicates part of her time to write reviews in art magazine like C Magazine – International Contemporary Art (Canada). She publishes several works, including the book 'Ofrena' together with Magarita Ballester (b.1942, poet, history teacher) in 1997 and « *In Search of meaning : the body, the psyche and the objet of art* » in 2007. A Swiss American, she has been living in Geneva since 1994 and loves travelling to Jura, an area reminiscent of the time she spent in the high mountains of Colorado during her youth.

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JUNE PAPINEAU

(b.1958 | Manchester, Connecticut, USA)

Swiss-American artist based in Geneva (Switzerland) since 1994.

EDUCATION

1985 Bachelor of Arts, Bennington College, Vermont, USA, including one year (1983-84) at the Université de Paris (France), Panthéon-Sorbonne on Philosophy of Aesthetics

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 *The Great Goyesque*, Galerie d'(A) - Lausanne – Switzerland
- 2013 *Le Bois de Marsyas, L'Angle du Pays Rochois*, Espace d'Art Contemporain, Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture - La Roche sur Foron – France
- 2011 *transEplant*, Galerie d'(A) - Lausanne – Switzerland
Springshoots, Le Futur antérieur, Maternity of the HUG - Geneva – Switzerland
- 2010 *Ineinander - Etournel und ich*, Galerie im Rütthubelbad - Walkringen (Berne) – Switzerland
- 2008 *En Aval (DownStream)*, Galerie Andata/Ritorno - Geneva – Switzerland
- 2002 *Limitrophismes*, Galerie Andata/Ritorno - Geneva – Switzerland
- 2001 *Prêt-à-porter*, Galería Buades - Madrid – Spain
- 1997 *Poem Pieces 1991-97*, Espai Vau, Centre d'Art Santa Mònica (Generalitat de Catalunya) - Barcelona – Spain
Mutandis, Galería Buades - Madrid – Spain
- 1996 *Passatges*, Sales de Cultura « Sa Nostra », Ciudadella y Maó, Menorca, and Palma de Mallorca – Spain
- 1993 *La nit en blanc de fulles*, Espace Saint-Léger 28 - Geneva – Switzerland
- 1992 Galería Columela - Madrid – Spain
- 1991 Línea-Círculo de Grabado - Madrid – Spain
Galerie Seltzer-Lejeune - Paris – France
Luces de ultramar, Galería Láviz Lázuli - Lanzarote – Spain
- 1990 Galería Columela - Madrid – Spain

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 *Geneviève Capitanio \ June Papineau \ Axelle Snakkers*, Ferme de la Chapelle - Grand-Lancy – Switzerland
- 2012 *Seul sur terre, rêveries de promeneurs solitaires*, Galerie de l'Hotel de Ville d'Yverdon – Switzerland
- 2010 *Luces de hiel*, Instituto Cervantes - Lyon – France
Vital Signs, The National Gallery of Bangkok – Thailand
- 2009 *Chassez le naturel*, Villa Bernasconi, Grand-Lancy - Geneva – Switzerland
Un pied dans l'eau, Centre Régional d'art contemporain Fontenoy, Chateau de Tremblay - Fontenoy – France
Amis à dessein, Villa Dutoit - Geneva – Switzerland
- 2008 *Peau d'arbre, Assens, les sens en tous sens*, Espace culturel - Assens – Switzerland
- 2007 Museo Patio Herreriano – Spain
- 2005 Galería Vértic - Oviedo – Spain
- 2004 Instituto Cervantes - Rome– Italy
Sur mesure, Musée de l'Histoire des Science - Geneva – Switzerland
- 2001 *L'enfance de l'art : Miroir, dis-moi... ?*, Galerie Andata/Ritorno - Geneva – Switzerland
Utopies et miniatures, Galerie Andata/Ritorno - Geneva – Switzerland
Galería Cruc - Madrid – Spain
- 1998 *Femmes et leur corps*, Galerie Niu d'Art - Lausanne – Switzerland
- 1985 Usdan Gallery, Bennington - Vermont - USA

ART FAIRS

- 2001 Galería Buades, ARCO'01 - Madrid – Spain
- 2000 Galería Buades, ARCO'00 - Madrid – Spain
- 1999 Galería Buades, ARCO'99 - Madrid – Spain
- 1991 Línea, Stand 211, Art Basel, Edition 2/91 - Basel – Switzerland

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BOOKS AND WRITINGS BY JUNE PAPINEAU

- 2007 *In Search of Meaning : the body, the psyche and the objet of art*, texts by June Papineau, Revista de Humanidades, published by Université Andrés Bello - Santiago – Chile
- 2001 *Apariencias externas, escenas intimas*, Catalogue published by Abril y Buades, text by Patricio Bulnes, poems and texts by June Papineau – Spain
- 1997 *Ofrena*, book published by Generalitat de Catalunya, text and illustrations by June Papineau with six poems by Magarita Ballester.
- 1996 *Entre Paredes. Una instalaciòn de Juliana Serri*, text for the “Propuesta 96” Catalogue, Talleres de Art Actual, Circulo de Bellas Artes - Madrid – Spain
- 1993 *Allan McCollum - Centre d'Art Contemporain de Genève*, “C” Magazine, no. 39, Spring - Toronto – CA
- 1992 *Whirling Sands*, Article on the “Arebes Giròvagues” installation by Eva Lootz in Tinglado Dos, Tarragona, “C” Magazine, no. 33, Spring - Toronto – CA

SELECTED ARTICLES AND REVIEWS

- 2008 *Du côté des galeries*, Étienne Dumont, Tribune de Genève – Switzerland
Treize galeries rentrant aux Bains, Laurence Chauvy, Le Temps – Switzerland
Poésie silencieuse à la grange, Françoise Jaunin, 24 Heures – Switzerland
- 2001 *La Intimidación Turbadora de June Papineau*, Javier Maderuelo, El País – Spain
- 1998 *Montrer le corps féminin pour dire sa puissance*, Laurence Chauvy, Le Temps – Switzerland
- 1997 *Peces poema 1991-1997*, J. L., El País – Spain
La lentitud poética de los signos, Javier Maderuelo, El País – Spain
- 1996 *Papineau presenta una instalación sobre poemas de Margarita Ballester, Mercedes Azagra, Ultima Hora* – Spain
- 1992 *Fábulas*, Javier Rubio Nombrot, El Punto – Spain
- 1990 *Orden y azar*, Fernando Huici, El País – Spain
Disposición de juegos en el espacio, Julian H. Miranda, El Independiente – Spain