

ELSA & JOHANNA
Palace Odyssée

- Série inédite -

EXHIBITION
3 November to 23 December 2021

OPENING
3 November 5pm - 9pm

Exposition réalisée grâce au soutien de l'EPPDCSI - Universcience



"Lobatus Gigas", Palace Odyssée, impression jet d'encre semi-mate sur papier baryté, 1/5, ED 5ex+2EA, H 60 x L 90 cm, 2020

PRESS CONTACT

GALERIE LA FOREST DIVONNE PARIS

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«The Static Equation», Palace Odyssey, semi-matt inkjet print on baryta paper, 1/5, ED 5ex+2EA, H 60 x W 90 cm, 2020

1. PRESS RELEASE

Galerie La Forest Divonne - Paris
Elsa & Johanna - Palace Odysée
From 3 November to 23 December 2021

Galerie La Forest Divonne will show a new series of the duo Elsa & Johanna from 3 November to 23 December 2021 in Paris. The public will discover a new series, entitled «Palace Odysée», created upon the invitation of Gaël Charbau, artistic advisor for Universcience (Palais de la découverte and Cité des Sciences) in the context of the renovation of the Palais, which has closed its doors for four years. Elsa & Johanna performed for a two-week period inside the Palais de la Découverte during the summer of 2020.

Through imagined stories, the artists embodied characters inspired by the museum's universe: anonymous visitors, workers, employees, imaginary characters... They immersed themselves in the rooms, the objects, the employees they met, the animals, the scientific and biological experiments featured in the museum to poetically retranscribe the magic of the place and the history of the building.

With «Palace Odysée», Elsa & Johanna affirm their talent for staging and colouring with a more pop style where they seem to free themselves from the constraints of realism of the previous series «A Couple of Them» and «Beyond the Shadows», made between 2017 and 2019, and always with a framing of great mastery.

Here they venture more into the realm of dreams, the occasion for an exceptional work on colours.

An exhibition that comes in a very rich season for the two photographers whose first solo museum exhibition, «The Plural Life of Identity» will take place at the Städtische Galerie in Karlsruhe, Germany, from November 2021 to February 2022 and with the release of their first photo book «Beyond the Shadows», published by H2L2.



«Sarracenia Leucophylla», Palace Odyssey, semi-matt inkjet print on baryta paper, 1/5, ED 5ex+2EA, H 60 x W 90 cm, 2020

2. EDITORIAL

In 2019, the Palais de la découverte, in anticipation of its renovation, has entrusted the artist duo Elsa & Johanna with the task of inscribing its history in our memory. For weeks, the two visual artists immersed themselves in the spaces and settings of the institution's rooms and backstage areas.

Immersed in the daily life of the Palais, they captured the life of the workshops, mingled with the public, and roamed the rooms after closing time. Their research, begun in January 2020, was extended during the months of confinement.

Faithful to their investigations of the creation and incarnation of fictional individualities in a real environment, their work offers a singular vision of this place that has marked so many imaginations. Playing on nostalgia and humour, often tinged with a strange and surreal note, they have projected themselves into the imaginary bodies of teenagers, mediators or administrative staff. The meticulously composed stagings awaken our cinematic memory and summon up characters that we imagine to be taken from fairy tales, fantastic stories or science fiction.

By blurring temporalities in this way, the series paints a portrait that is in no way documentary, but which reflects with great freedom the diversity of the theatres and their atmospheres, some of which are reminiscent of their creation in 1937.

Among the forty photographs in «Palace Odyssée», the Palais has acquired sixteen original prints. They now form the link between the past history of the Palais de la découverte and its future.

Gaël Charbau



3. ELSA & JOHANNA'S BIOGRAPHY



Johanna Benainous was born in Paris in 1991 and Elsa Parra was born in 1990 in Bayonne. They live and work in Paris.

Johanna Benainous (1991) and Elsa Parra (1990) form a duo of visual artists, photographers and filmmakers. They met at the School of Visual Art in New York and received the distinction of the jury of the Beaux-Arts de Paris (ENSBA) in 2015. Invited to the Salon de Montrouge in 2016, finalists for the HSBC prize and nominated for the Révélation Emerige grant the same year, they were guest artists at the Circulation(s) Festival and the Festival Photo Saint-Germain in 2017. They won the 2nd Prix Picto de la Mode 2017, and entered the collections of the Palais Galliera (Fashion Museum of the City of Paris). An edition of the 88 prints from the series *A Couple of Them* is acquired by the FMAC (Fonds Municipal d'Art Contemporain) in Paris in 2018.

The MAC/VAL presents their work in the exhibition «Lignes de vies, une exposition de légende», in 2019, and, in the same year, they are finalists of the Festival d'Hyères 2019. Elsa & Johanna are selected by Osei Bonsu, curator of modern and contemporary African art at the Tate Modern in London, to participate in the Secteur Curiosa of Paris Photo 2019 with a solo show on the stand of Galerie La Forest Divonne.

In 2020, they are selected to participate in the Rencontres Photographiques d'Arles, and the same year, they enter the Société Générale Contemporary Art Collection, they carry out a carte blanche commission for the Palais de la Découverte and they are part of the exhibition «Staging Identity» at the Mathildenhöhe Institut in Darmstadt alongside Pipilotti Rist and Cindy Shermann. In October 2021 they are invited by the Städtische Galerie in Karlsruhe to present their first solo museum exhibition.

PERSONAL EXHIBITION

2021 *Palace Odyssée*, Etincelles du Palais de la découverte, Paris, (ouverture le 10 novembre)
The Plural life of identity, Städtische Galerie, Karlsruhe, Allemagne
Palace Odyssée, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris
PARIS PHOTO Grand Palais, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris
Festival air de fête, invité par le FRAC Bretagne, Saint-Briac-sur-Mer, France
A Couple of Them, FMAC Paris, murs de la Caserne Baudoyer, Paris

2020 *Silver Springs*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles

2019 PARIS PHOTO, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais, Paris
Rosarium - C'est le soleil qui finira par nous perdre, Mains d'Oeuvres, Saint Ouen, France

2018 *A Cross Perspective*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Festival Photo Saint-Germain, Paris

2017 *Le Reflet de la cuillère*, Espace des femmes, Festival Photo Saint-Germain, Paris
Los Ojos Vendados, Etro, Saint-Germain, Paris

2015 *A Couple of Them*, Beaux-arts de Paris

GROUP EXHIBITION

2021 *Per Se*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris
Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais éphémère, Paris
Find the truth, Jimei X Arles, Jimei Photo Festival, Jimei, Chine

2020 Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Staging Identity, Institut Mathildenhöhe, Darmstadt, Allemagne

2019 *Some of us*, commissariat Jérôme Cotinet-Alphaize, Carlshütte, Büdelsdorf, Allemagne
Festival International de Journalisme, Couthures-sur-Garonne, France
34ème Festival International de Photographie de Hyères, Villa Noailles, France
Qu'est-ce que tu regardes ? Espace Beaurepaire, Paris, France
Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Lignes de vies, MAC / VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine, France
100% L'Expo - Sorties d'écoles, Grande Halle de la Villette, Paris, France
POSTURES - La figure seule, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique

2018 FIAC 2018 - stand du FMAC, Grand Palais, Paris, France
30 ans - Anniversaire de la Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
Prix Picto de la mode, Palais Galliera, Paris, France
Les Apparences, La Graineterie, Houilles, France
L'homme qui marchait dans la couleur, Galerie du Crous, Paris, France
La figure seule, Château de Poncé, Poncé, France
Millennials au féminin, Galerie Havas, Puteaux, France
Le redoublement, Artinkk, Bruxelles, Belgique
Profils, Pavillon Blanc, Centre d'art Henri Molina, Colomiers, France

2017 *Kaléidoscope*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique
Morceaux choisis, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique
La Galerie du Club des AD, Arles, France - Jeune création 67, Paris, France
Ubique, les vacances immobiles, Glassbox, Paris, France
Proyecta, Imaginando otros posibles, commissariat Sandra Maunac, Madrid, Espagne
Le quatrième sexe, commissariat Marie Maertens, Espace Coeur, Paris, France
Festival *Circulation(s) #7*, le Centquatre, Paris, France

2016 *Une inconnue d'avance*, commissariat Gaël Charbau, Villa Emerige, Paris,
Felicità, commissariat Alexia Fabre, Palais des beaux-arts, Paris, France
Dress codes, commissariat Alexandra Dhainaut, Mains d'Oeuvre, Saint-Ouen, France
Parcours Saint-Germain, Le Mont St Michel, Paris, France
Vertige en terrain plat, Fondation Brownstone, Paris, France
Salon de Montrouge #61, commissariat Ami Barrack, Beffroi de Montrouge, France

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

FMAC (Fond municipal d'art contemporain de la Ville de Paris), France

Palais de la Découverte

Palais Galliera (Musée de la mode de la Ville de Paris), France

Collection d'Art Contemporain Société Générale

Collection départementale d'art contemporain de Seine Saint-Denis, France

AWARDS

2020 Nominées Prix Roederer 2020, Rencontres d'Arles

2019 Lauréates du Prix du Public du 34e Festival International de Hyères

2017 2e prix « Prix Picto de la mode 2017 »

Carte blanche « Etro »

Sélectionnées pour les visuels officiels du « Festival Photo Saint-Germain »

Invitées au « Festival Circulation(s) 2017 »

2016 Nominées pour « Bourse Révélation Emerige »

Nominées pour « 61e Salon de Montrouge »

Finalistes pour « Prix HSBC pour la photographie »

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2021 Elsa & Johanna, Fanny Taillandier, éditions La Martinière, collection «Percevoir» sous la direction de Simon Baker, préface de Simon Baker, 2021, 128p

2021 Elsa & Johanna, *Beyond The Shadows*, éditions H2L2, textes de Gael Charbau, Salomé Brustein, Eugénie Adda, Baptiste Gourden, Arthur Larrue, 2021, 174p

2017 *Kaléidoscope*, texte d'Arthur Larrue, éditions Galerie La Forest Divonne - Bruxelles, 30p

3. INFORMATIONS PRATIQUES

Palace Odyssée - Elsa & Johanna
du 3 novembre au 23 décembre 2021

Galerie La Forest Divonne
12 rue des Beaux-Arts - 75006
mardi - samedi 11h-19h / + 33 (0)1 40 29 97 52
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Vernissage 3 novembre 17h - 21h

Paris Photo du 11 au 14 novembre 2021, stand D27
Foire internationale dédiée à la photographie
Solo Show : Elsa & Johanna «Find the Truth» série Beyond the Shadows



Photo Days du 1 au 30 novembre 2021
Une virée photo & vidéo dans les galeries et institutions parisiennes



PhotoSaintGermain du 4 au 20 novembre 2021
Le parcours photo de la rive gauche



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