

GLADSTONE

Claudia Comte presents new works at Gladstone in Brussels

Comte explores the relationship between the object and its material in a consumerist culture, expanding on her interest in the natural world

Gladstone is pleased to present *The Cavern of Lost Dreams (nine characters)*, an exhibition of all new artworks by Swiss artist Claudia Comte. Comprising sculptures, paintings, and site-specific works, this exhibition highlights the artist's multidisciplinary approach to artmaking and perceptive investigation of the materiality of both natural and fabricated elements. Using mediums such as wood, marble, bronze, ceramic, and paint, Comte creates imaginative forms and landscapes that question competing notions of industrial production versus handmade craftsmanship, high versus low culture, and fact versus fiction.

For this exhibition, Comte expands her career-long interest in constructing immersive installations that encompass a variety of her creative practices to suggest visual and conceptual dialogues between the various modes of artistic production she employs. Throughout the space, a series of new figurative and abstract sculptures made from differing natural materials adorn each room. The artist creates objects such as biomorphic figures, coral, a motorcycle helmet, a flip flop and an axe out of wood, marble, bronze and ceramics to question ascribed meanings to highbrow materials and seemingly insignificant artifacts of contemporary culture. This specificity of material also connects to Comte's concerns for the environment and how mass production of human-made objects has drastically impacted equilibrium of living organisms on Earth. The artist's sculptures, sitting atop tall, frame-like open plinths made of concrete, demonstrate Comte's careful attention to the materials she carves with incisive, delicate understanding and appreciation, while suggesting deeper meanings connected to global warming and the detrimental effects humans can have on the environment.

Equally significant to Comte's sculptural work is her painting practice, which has become more ambitious and immersive over the last several years. Adorning every wall of the exhibition space is a new site-specific wall painting inspired by the Monument Valley Mountains in Western America. This is the artist's first wall painting to extend beyond a single room and portrays Comte's ever explorative and continuously developing approach to painting. The cartoon-like depiction of this mountain range is inspired by the artist's earliest recollections of landscapes excavated from popular culture, terrains which differed immensely from her wooded Swiss surroundings early in life. Through the use of aerosol spray paint, Comte prompts a compelling tension between graffiti and the quaint domesticity of the townhouse to elevate the significance of materials and mediums she continues to experiment with on a variety of scales. Comte also unveils two new works from her *Turn and Slip* series, consisting of rounded canvases that she paints in flat, monochromatic gradients of black on white in a continuous, circular motion. Together with the artist's new sculptural works, the works in this exhibition envelop viewers into the rhythmic, expansive, and carefully constructed worlds Comte conceptualizes.

Exhibition Details

The Cavern of Lost Dreams (nine characters)

G L A D S T O N E

September 5 – October 12, 2019

Rue du Grand Cerf 12

1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

About Claudia Comte

Claudia Comte (b. 1983, Morges, Switzerland) lives and works in Basel, Switzerland. Recent solo and group exhibitions include K&L Museum, Seoul, Korea (2024); Lehmbrock Museum, Duisburg (2023); LagoAlgo, Mexico City (2023); Fundación Casa Wabi, Oaxaca, Mexico (2023); Desert X, Alula, Saudi Arabia (2022), Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich (2022), 58th October Salon - Belgrade Biennale (2022), Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid (2021), Kunstraum Dornbirn, Austria (2020); Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy (2019), Copenhagen Contemporary, Denmark (2019); MOCA Cleveland, Ohio (2018); Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland (2018); KölnSkulptur #9, Cologne, Italy (2017); Basement Roma, Italy (2017); Messeplatz, Art Basel, Switzerland (2017); Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland (2017); Desert X, Palm Springs, California (2017); Public Art Fund, New York (2016); Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich (2014).

About Gladstone Gallery

Gladstone is known for its commitment to artists whose prescient approaches and experimental practices have defined the contours of contemporary art. The gallery has long been an active partner in the cultivation of iconoclastic careers, fostering a roster of artists recognized for their ground-breaking contributions. Headquartered in New York and including outposts in both Brussels and Seoul, Gladstone's impact extends globally, enabling both the presentation of new bodies of work, and an amplification of the international reach of its artists. Alongside its work with contemporary artists, the gallery is steward to the legacies of pivotal historical artists and serves as an advocate for the enduring power of art. Gladstone is led by a team of partners who spearhead its long-term vision and program, building on the values of its founder Barbara Gladstone.

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