

Galerie XII
Los Angeles

CLARK & POUGNAUD
A SENSE OF BLISS

Opening Reception with the Artists:
Saturday, December 9, 2023
Exhibition dates: Dec. 9, 2023 – Feb. 10, 2024

Galerie XII Los Angeles is pleased to announce *A SENSE OF BLISS*, the new exhibition by the French artist duo Clark and Pougnaud, opening on December 2, 2023. Some works from their iconic series will be exhibited alongside new pieces.



Since the 1990s, Clark and Pougnaud have formed a duo with a well-established modus operandi. Revealed by their project «Hommage à Hopper» which earned them the HSBC and the Archimboldo awards, the artists merge their two techniques into a theatrical aesthetic. If their images may seem like simple portraits, they are actually strange and sophisticated settings. Over the years, the decors have been stripped to summarize the essential. With the series *Eden, A Season in Paradise*,

exhibited in particular in Chaumont-sur-Loire in 2021-2022, they began a break away from post-production techniques to favor the shooting of installations. *Fetish* (2020-2021) inspired by heterogeneous collections of objects, continues this research in a post-surrealist aesthetic.

Clark and Pougnaud create moods more than they create images. They invite us to a dreamlike walk, to contemplation, to the exploration of our own imagination in a society that turns at full speed.

BIOGRAPHY



Clark and Pougnaud, are a couple of French artists, respectively painter and photographer. Pougnaud, from a family of artists, has since her early age rubbed shoulders with the world of art. Clark grew up in the world of photography. He was his father's assistant before opening his own studio in the 1980s. It was in the 1990s that they formed their duet: Pougnaud thinks the staging, manufactures and paints the sets, Clark lights and photographs them. Their work reflects a singular transversality: painting, model sets and photographs. Their work is resolutely contemporary,

through the technique used, the choice of characters, the solid colors and the acute sense of staging. Their approach is also deeply crossed by pictorial references of the twentieth century, like Edward Hopper, René Magritte and surrealism. In 2000, Clark and Pougnaud were awarded the Arcimboldo Prize for Digital Creation, followed by an exhibition at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris, and in 2006, the HSBC Prize for Photography.

CV

AWARDS

Prix Arcimboldo 2000

Prix de la Fondation HSBC 2006

MAIN MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

2023 *Une certaine idée du bonheur*, Centre d'Art contemporain Matmut pour les Arts, Rouen (France)

2022 *Eden*, Chaumont Photo sur Loire / Le Parvis, Pau (France)

2019 *Eden* Hangar Art Center Bruxelles (Belgium)

2016/2017 *L'œil du collectionneur*, Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Strasbourg (France)

2016 *Le temps des collections*, Musée des beaux-Arts de Rouen (France)

2015 *Rétrospective*, Maison photographique de Lille (France)

2013 *Hommage à Edward Hopper* - Mona Bismarck American Center for art & culture, Paris

2012 "*Hommage*" Galerie PhotoHub Manometr, Moscow (Russia)

2011 *L'Imagerie de Lannion L'Onde* - centre d'Art Velizy (France)

2010 "*From infancy to the green years*", Pushkin Museum, Moscow (Russia)

2009 *Retrospective* Musée du Montparnasse, Prix Arcimboldo (France)

2008 "*Presumed Innocence*" Decordova Museum - Lincoln (USA)

2007 Philips de Pury & Co, New-York (USA)

Fondation HSBC "*Un tableau peut en cacher un autre*", Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art - Luxembourg

"*Le petit chaperon rouge*" Fondation Albert Marinus - Woluwe Saint Lambert (Belgium)

Les Rencontres d'Arles, Commanderie Sainte Luce, Fondation HSBC (France)

2005 "*C'est la vie*" Musée de l'Image, Epinal (France)

2004 "*Transhumance // 8*" Le Château d'Eau - Toulouse "*Les vilains dans les contes de Fées*"

Musée de l'Image - Epinal La Conciergerie, dans le cadre du Mois de la Photo à Paris

2000 "*Hommage à Edward Hopper*" Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris (France)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2023 « Une certaine idée du bonheur », Linéart

2015 "Ceci n'est pas une fleur", Editions Contrejour

2010 "Clark et Pougnaud", published by "Petit Format", Galerie Duchamp

2009 "C'est la Vie", PaciArte gallery:

2006 "Clark et Pougnaud", monograph, Éditions Actes Sud

2004 "Intimité", galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris

2003 "Les Bourgeoises d'Angoulême et les Contes" galerie Bruno Delarue, Paris

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