

Galerie Dukan

**OLIVIER MASMONTEIL, JEAN-XAVIER RENAUD, CARLOS SAGRERA,
ROSA MARIA UNDA SOUKI, MIRIAM VLAMING - FEAT. MM CONCEPT (A COLLABORATION WITH MARTIN MERTENS GALLERY, BERLIN)**

Interiors

Galerie Dukan, Leipzig
5th November - 17th December 2016
vernissage: 5th November 2016



Olivier Masmonteil
Ghost house in the travellers club, 2014
Oil on canvas
200 x 250 cm,
Courtesy Galerie Dukan

The Galerie Dukan is proud to present the exhibition «Interiors» in its space in Leipzig. The exhibition features the works of Olivier Masmonteil (Fr), Jean-Xavier Renaud (Fr), Carlos Sagrera (Sp), Rosa Maria Unda Souki (Ve) and Miriam Vlaming (De).

As its name suggests, the exhibition offers a panel of artworks brought together around the subject of « indoor portrait », a pictorial genre that appeared in Europe at the end of the 17th century and achieved success in the second part of the 19th century. The genre consists in representing a room in details without any characters. From the 20th century to the present day, the artists perpetuate this tradition, and amongst those represented by the gallery, we have chosen some works of art regarding this remarkable subject. In parallel, we are happy to show a few design pieces from MM Concept selected by the Martin Mertens Gallery, Berlin.

Olivier Masmonteil was born in 1973 in Romilly-Sur-Seine, France. He lives and works in Paris. He studied at the Beaux-Arts of Bordeaux from 1996 to 1999. In the tradition of Figurative painting, the artist plays with the pictorial genres and styles, going from landscapes to portraits without neglecting still lifes and genre scenes. For each subject, he cultivates fantasy that he often developed from unusual angles. He resides in Leipzig for over a year in 2005-2006. There, he decides to divide his work into three successive chapters. Chapter 1 called « the ability to paint » had the landscape for unique topic. For him, this chapter was a way to learn a technique by exploring the various possibilities given by the natural scenery. Four years ago, Olivier Masmonteil has started Chapter 2, « the pleasure of painting ». In this one, there is not only one category but all of them are depicted (landscape, still life, nude, portrait and genre scene). So, the artist goes from contemplation to a narrative point of view. In the first part of this chapter, Olivier Masmonteil works on Memory, especially around the series of « Les Demoiselles Oubliées ». Like he did for Chapter 1, he drew on the old masters of the History of Painting. There is no emergency about starting Chapter 3 for the artist, as it will probably be processed in twenty years! In 2015, Olivier Masmonteil had a solo show, «What a wonderful World», for the opening of the new space of the Galerie Dukan in Leipzig.

Jean-Xavier Renaud was born in 1977 in Woippy, Lorraine (France). He graduated from the Arts Décoratifs of Strasbourg and currently teaches at the HEAD school in Geneva, Switzerland. Since 2004, a turning point in the artist's career, Jean-Xavier Renaud has lived in a town called Hauteville-Lompnès, a kind of French «Twin Peaks», reaching an altitude of 1000 meters. Jean-Xavier Renaud quickly became politically involved and took a place on the local council where he tried to understand the issues of the territory. The Farmers and neighbours' problems, as well as local life in general offered a new decorum and a fascinating perspective to the artist. The artist straightforwardly approaches themes such as mass media, ecology, environment, dubious social relationships, current unstable politics and corruption. He develops criticism within the exhibition's space by analysing subjects, which are inherently trivialised and tend to paralyse people in society or create monsters. Jean-Xavier Renaud does not seek to offer a new anarchist revolution. He only shares with honesty his point of view regarding our species so that we may become aware of the apocalyptic and suicidal processes that are in motion in the world we live in. In 2016, he presents «Umweltverschmutzungen» - «Atmospheric Pollutions» at the Galerie Dukan, Leipzig.



Rosa Maria Unda Souki
E de manha, 2011
Oil on canvas
50 x 50 cm
Courtesy Galerie Dukan

Carlos Sagrera was born in Madrid 1987. He graduated (BFA) in 2011 in Madrid. In 2012, he moved to the south of Spain (Córdoba) to the Antonio Gala Foundation for which he won a scholarship. There, he starts working on pictorial constructions of different interior spaces where he used to live. Since, the interiors have become his main subject of study, representing the space as an extension of his personal experience. Witnessing the transition between the multi layers of time and of the traces of domestic climates, his artworks are the guardians of a memory and private behaviours. Since 2012, Carlos Sagrera participated in many exhibitions in galleries, museums and fairs, in Spain and Netherlands. His work is in various collections in Spain, Germany and Netherlands. In 2014, he moved to Leipzig where he lives and works.

Rosa Maria Unda Souki is a Venezuelan artist. She was born in Caracas in 1977. She lived in four different countries: Venezuela, England, Brasil and France. Since childhood, she has always been interested in all artistic forms. She entered the art school of the Institute Armando Reverón in Caracas at the age of 16. In 2004, she arrived in France to be with her husband, a PhD student in Law at the Sorbonne Nouvelle University. The same year, she won the prize of Painting of Prix Signatures, a French art competition established in 1959 during the mandate of André Malraux, the Minister of Culture and Communication. Since, she often exhibits in galleries in Paris. Her work focuses on houses and the way we can deal with spaces. The artist does not represent any characters but it is easy to feel the human presence through the arrangement of furniture, objects and flowers' compositions. It is as if the house was looking at itself in order to learn more about its inhabitants. Rosa Maria UNDA SOUKI makes illustrations for children and advertising designs. She also sings, composes music and writes poetry. She was awarded for the Literature Competition of the IUESAPAR in Caracas in 1994. Since 2006, she lives and works in Montreuil .

Miriam Vlaming, one of the most important representatives of the "Neue Leipziger Schule", was born in 1971 in Hilden, close to Düsseldorf in Germany. In 1991, she started studying Educational Science, Psychology and Sociology at the Heinrich-Heine-University in Düsseldorf. However, in the course of time, Miriam got more and more attracted to art and therefore, she decided to transfer to the University of Graphic and Book Arts in Leipzig. (...) Her exceptional training and her figurative style allow her to get ascribed to the "Neue Leipziger Schule", just as Neo Rauch and Matthias Weischer for instance. However, Miriam decides to follow a special way within this art direction. She exploits the limits of abstraction to the fullest, more than many others situated in Leipzig. (...) After graduating, Miriam takes on a teaching assignment (2001-2003) and (...) teaches at the 14th international summer academy for graphic art in Dresden. Her art paintings have become part of various international solo exhibitions. Among those, the show "YOU PROMISED ME" (...) took place in 2008 in the Art Hall Mannheim, which gathered around 50 paintings. Furthermore, Miriam Vlaming's artworks have been adopted by several important public collections and museums, including the Von-der-Heydt-Museum in Wuppertal, the ALTANA cultural endowment, the art collection of the Deutsche Bundesbank as well as the company collection Robert Bosch GmbH. Miriam Vlaming lives and works in Berlin. Extract of text written by: Dr. Agnes Thum.