

Luka FINEISEN

Revue de presse



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L'IMAGE DU JOUR



Photo Martin Appropio/Paris, La Défense Hauts de Seine/Courtesy Luka Fineisen et Galerie Papillon, Paris

Luka Fineisen,
Awakening,

2021, plumes, plexiglas,
souffleurs, minuteurs,
structure métallique,
300 x 250 x 100 cm.

Plumes extatiques

Voile de plumes virevoltantes dans un aquarium placé sur l'axe qui relie l'Arche de la Défense à l'Arc de triomphe, *Awakening* est une invitation à la contemplation et à la poésie. Diplômée des Beaux-Arts de Düsseldorf et représentée par la galerie Papillon (Paris), son auteur, Luka Fineisen (née en 1974) aime à défier les lois de la gravité jouant avec les matières qu'elle modèle à l'envi. Plus loin, une arche cubique façonnée de sphères dorées par Cyril Lancelin (1975) s'amuse à jouer les triplés avec les arcs voisins, quand une maison couchée, signée Jean-François Fourtou (1964) défie, nonchalante, les gratte-ciels. Audacieuses, provocantes, utopiques, voici les 14 sculptures (dont 70 % ont été réalisées spécialement pour l'événement) qui ponctuent le parcours à ciel ouvert, de l'Esplanade de la Défense (8 sculptures) à la Seine Musicale (6 sculptures et une projection), de la 4^e édition des « Extatiques » curatée par Fabrice Bousteau (rédacteur en chef de *Beaux-Arts magazine* et directeur de la rédaction du *Quotidien de l'Art*). Sous le signe de l'extase et dans une excentricité jouisseuse, le commissaire de l'exposition a proposé, outre les artistes renommés Tony Cragg (1949), Noël Dolla (1945), Jean-Bernard Métais (1954) ou Daniel Arsham (1980), à des chefs, danseurs ou designers de s'emparer également de la question. En partenariat avec JCDecaux, cette saison propose aussi « une exposition dans l'exposition » contextualisant les œuvres *in situ* dans un ancrage historique et une vision moderne où la notion d'extase revêt de multiples sens, amoureux, religieux ou encore dionysiaques...

LÉA AMOROS
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THE NEW ART

A 19th-century gentleman trapped in the 21st century. A woman who seems to bend the laws of physics. As the art world springs back to life after the summer, we look at six European artists who make up a small but impressive club of creators to watch. "The work of these artists displays suspended moments, deconstructed forms evolving, with results not quite there or defined yet," says Tim Fleming, director of Art Los Angeles Contemporary. "It is quintessential contemporary story-telling." **W10**

Photo: Getty Images for The Wall Street Journal

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GO FOR BUST
Grab a Gaultier **W7**





TABLE TALK Filling in the Blancs **W7**



DEJA TRIP Exploring Hidden Mallorca **W9**



GET FRAMED Hit London's art fairs **W8**

CULTURE



ARTIST: NINA DEIER ▲
MEDIUM: Mixed media, performance
WHY HER: Much of Nina Deier's art is based on found objects. Recently, for example, her studio was full of real-hair wigs, pressed plants and hand-made rug samples. The Danish-born, Berlin-based artist likes to explore what happens to objects, habits and people when they enter the world at large. "I like anything from dance to taxidermy," Ms. Deier said via email. "I like to look at the products of these endeavors and speculate what they mean. I especially enjoy the space between what their makers intended, and what the creators end up talking about since they've gone into creation." Her work "operates in the in-between between painting, sculpture, and performance, propelled by a strong conceptual program," says Janet Grey, co-director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

UPCOMING SHOWS: *Prize* (London, with Laura Berlett gallery, solo show at Mission, Llandudno, Wales Oct. 26-Jan. 5.

ARTIST: NATASHA IVANOVA ▼

MEDIUM: Painting
WHY HER: Natasha Ivanova doesn't do small. Her paintings, suffused with bursts of color, strong, dutiful animals and anxious, besic women, ran to 5 meters. For the Russian who was raised in St. Petersburg and is about to move from Geneva to Berlin, a large canvas not only presents unlimited possibilities, it also requires courage. "It's like talking out loud," she muses. "It is always an event." Ms. Ivanova has shown throughout most of Central Europe, and her work can be found in the collections of Thomas Blüchert and Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxis. Theatrical in scope and scale, the paintings perpetuate a visual subterfuge: sometimes, akin to a Grimm's fairy tale, conceals the true story—strength, independence and pure femininity—which only becomes apparent after multiple viewings and consideration.



UPCOMING SHOWS: None in the near future but Ms. Ivanova is focusing on two new series: portraits of boys from the St. Petersburg Navy School, in which she aims to capture a last glimpse of childhood, before the boys become sailors; the second will take on famous fairytales (I think Sleeping Beauty) in a variety of media.

WIVE: DOLL



Illustration courtesy of The Wall Street Journal; painting courtesy of the artist.



"DREAMS CHUNKY 2" 2012

ARTIST: JACK LAVENDER ▲
MEDIUM: Multi-disciplinary art, primarily sculpture
WHY HER: Jack Lavender works with a motley assortment of materials and media, from dried fruit to ambient music and cigar packs. Much like his materials, his influences run the gamut—from David Attenborough to Wang Wei. In his recent exhibition at The Approach in London, entitled "Dreams, Charlie," he used myriad found objects to create a neo-romanticist mishmash of the detritus of our generation. To Mr. Lavender, this aggregated forum of found objects allows him to create a collage of, or perhaps a meditation on, a world that has contained so much and, at times, given back so little.

UPCOMING SHOWS: Mr. Lavender will show at *Prize* with The Approach gallery.

ARTIST: LUKA FINEISEN ▼

MEDIUM: Sculpture
WHY HER: The German-born artist infuses her art with a childlike lyricism. Her gravity-defying works are varied in their materials: bubbles made of plastic that seem to float across a cement floor, or buildings that seem to be made of molten bronze, slowly separating and melting before our eyes, like taffy being ripped apart. Her works challenge what we know to be true. "As an artist, I can fill the Pacific Ocean with honey or get rid of gravity altogether," says the Berlin-based Ms. Fineisen, whose work can be found in the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart and the Schnütgen Museum in Cologne. "I have the freedom to find the substantial, while simultaneously canceling out the rest; it is a way to deal with the indefinable gray zones, and the incomprehensible surrounding us."

UPCOMING SHOWS: Ms. Fineisen will show at Arko Art Center, Seoul, in November, and with Claudine Papillon Galerie at Art Los Angeles Contemporary in January.



FROM THE SERIES 'PIECES OF PARADISE,' 2011
 On the cover, Luka Fineisen



Cover illustration by The Wall Street Journal; artist photo courtesy of Claudia Sautter gallery (Germany).