

TEMPLON

II

Press release
20 November 2021

ODA JAUNE

wOnderlust

8 January - 5 March 2022

Opening: Saturday 8 January 2022 – 12 to 8 pm



"Tree", 2020-2021, 200 cm x 1000 cm, oil on canvas

After a two-year absence, unconventional artist Oda Jaune is back, offering a Paris transformed by the pandemic *wOnderlust*, a powerful, dazzling new exhibition centring on a breath-taking 10-metre-long canvas and a life-sized hologram. The canvases, water colours and hologram together map out a fabulous journey, veering between the magical and the monstrous.

Originally from Bulgaria, Oda Jaune trained in Germany before adopting Paris as her home city. Over the last 10 years she has been one of the most intriguing figures on the European art scene. Her distinctive work, unshackled by convention, is part of the spectacular renaissance of figurative painting in France. Poetic, tortured, sometimes erotic or even unaffectedly feminist, her painting uninhibitedly explores the depths of the unconscious.

The recent health crisis and forced isolation led the artist to reexamine the evolution of the human race and its shifting relationship with the world. As she explains, "After a year of the pandemic, I'm fascinated by the idea of the transformation of human beings and of nature into someone or something that is always new." The exhibition's central canvas is over 10 metres long, unfurling along the trunk of a metamorphosing tree populated by children, the world's last survivors, engaged in enigmatic activities.

The gallery basement is home to Oda Jaune's first incursion into the world of holograms. Part painting, part sculpture, the installation reveals a "tree of life" projected into the dark.

Born in 1979 in Bulgaria, Oda Jaune has lived and worked in Paris since 2008. Her work has featured in a variety

TEMPLON

II

of exhibitions in Europe, including *Heart – Romanticism in Contemporary Art*, Musée de la Vie Romantique, Paris (2020), *Hands – Solo Show*, SEEN, Antwerp (2019), *Peindre, dit-elle, chap. 2*, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Dôle (2017), *Intrigantes incertitudes*, Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Saint-Etienne (2016), *Peindre, dit-elle*, Musée Départemental d'Art Contemporain de la Haute-Vienne, Rochechouart (2015), *Confrontation avec Félicien Rops*, Musée Félicien Rops, Namur (2011) and *Tous cannibales*, La Maison Rouge, Paris and me Collectors room, Berlin (2011). In 2018, the National Art Gallery in Sofia held a major retrospective of her work, *Heartland*, The exhibition included a catalogue published in September 2019 by Hatje Cantz.