

# Galerie Daniel Templon

Paris

JAN FABRE

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## JAN FABRE :: *GISANTS (MEMENTO MORI)*



It's useless to turn your mind on it, the exhibition theme is simple and clear: 'remember you will die'. For the new installation, named *Gisants*, Jan Fabre has decided to turn the Parisian **Galerie Daniel Templon** into a funeral chamber.

From February 28th to April 20th 2013, the gallery space will host a couple of Carrara marble effigies, together with sculptures depicting brains inhabited by insects and plants. Apparently not so suitable for people more worried about bad luck than about bad art, actually the work is a tribute to a couple of the biggest geniuses of the 1900s: American neuroanatomist Elizabeth Caroline Crosby and Australian zoologist and ethologist Konrad Lorenz.

In *Gisants*, the funerary sculpture is used to remember the vanity of being, the Latin *memento mori*, swinging back and forth between the biologic nature of death and the ancient religions. On one hand there is the brain, the location of intelligence, seen as having the unusual role of afterworld guide. On the other hand, there are the insect, positioned at the bottom of the statues, symbolizing resurrection and a parody of some gravestones.

Watching more carefully, it is easy to find out similar influences also in other of Belgian's artworks (click [here](#) to read the article about Jan Fabre in Digital Life 2012). Neurology in *Is the Brain the Most Sexy Part of the Body?* – already shown at Templon – or the issue of death in *Piètas*, presented during the last Venice Biennial. Denigrators could be surprised by the interest in zoology, considering the role of animals in the Fabre works: the mistreated canaries in Florence, the stuffed dogs in Palermo, the cats thrown up into the air in Antwerp – the latter show cost him an aggression. It's hard to predict how *Gisants* will be appreciated by animal activists, but surely thanks to this exhibition Fabre doesn't risk to be attacked by Catholic Trappists.

Gabriele Girolamini

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Jan Fabre :: *Gisants* (Tribute to E.C. Crosby e K. Lorenz)

Galerie Daniel Templon

30 Rue Beaubourg

web: [www.danieltemplon.com](http://www.danieltemplon.com)

Paris (France), from February 28th to April 30th 2013