

TEMPLON

II

PIERRE ET GILLES

THE COLLECTIVE MAGAZINE, mars 2014

The Collective



— No. 8



Jean Paul Gaultier

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Art in Print

(FROM PARIS TO LONDON)



Duo, Pierre et Gilles unveil a series of previously unseen works on the theme of the hero for their first exhibition at Galerie Daniel Templon.

These internationally renowned artists have been producing works together since 1976, creating a world where painting and photography meet. Their art is peopled by their friends and family, anonymous and famous (including Zahia Dehar, Arielle Dombasle, Isabelle Huppert and Karl Lagerfeld), who appear in sophisticated life-size sets the artists build in their studio. Following in the footsteps of Georges Méliès, they give each work its own special character, using tricks and accessories as well as a complex play of lighting and composition. Working from this initial stage, they meticulously apply paint to the photograph once printed on canvas, whose original frame is designed as an extension of the work. Dubbed *imagénieurs* (imageers) by art critic Eric Troncy, these accomplished image creators have built up an extraordinary contemporary iconography that sets out to remodel the landscape of our imaginations.

The exhibition features a gallery of portraits, from heroic figures of antique mythology such as Achilles and Prometheus to superheroes of popular culture and fiction.

We also encounter a number of contemporary heroes, such as a young rebel from the Arab Spring and a happy couple, sporting the artists' features, celebrating a same-sex marriage. These hand-painted photographs, unique pieces of art, offer a wholly original reworking of the portrait tradition. Blending the humorous with the solemn, street culture with art history, Pierre et Gilles' works explore the mysteries of representation and the ambiguity of the hero myth, contributing their own probing psychological insights.

Pierre et Gilles have two upcoming exhibitions in Paris

Heroes, at *Galerie Daniel Templon*, Paris
April 10 – May 31, 2014

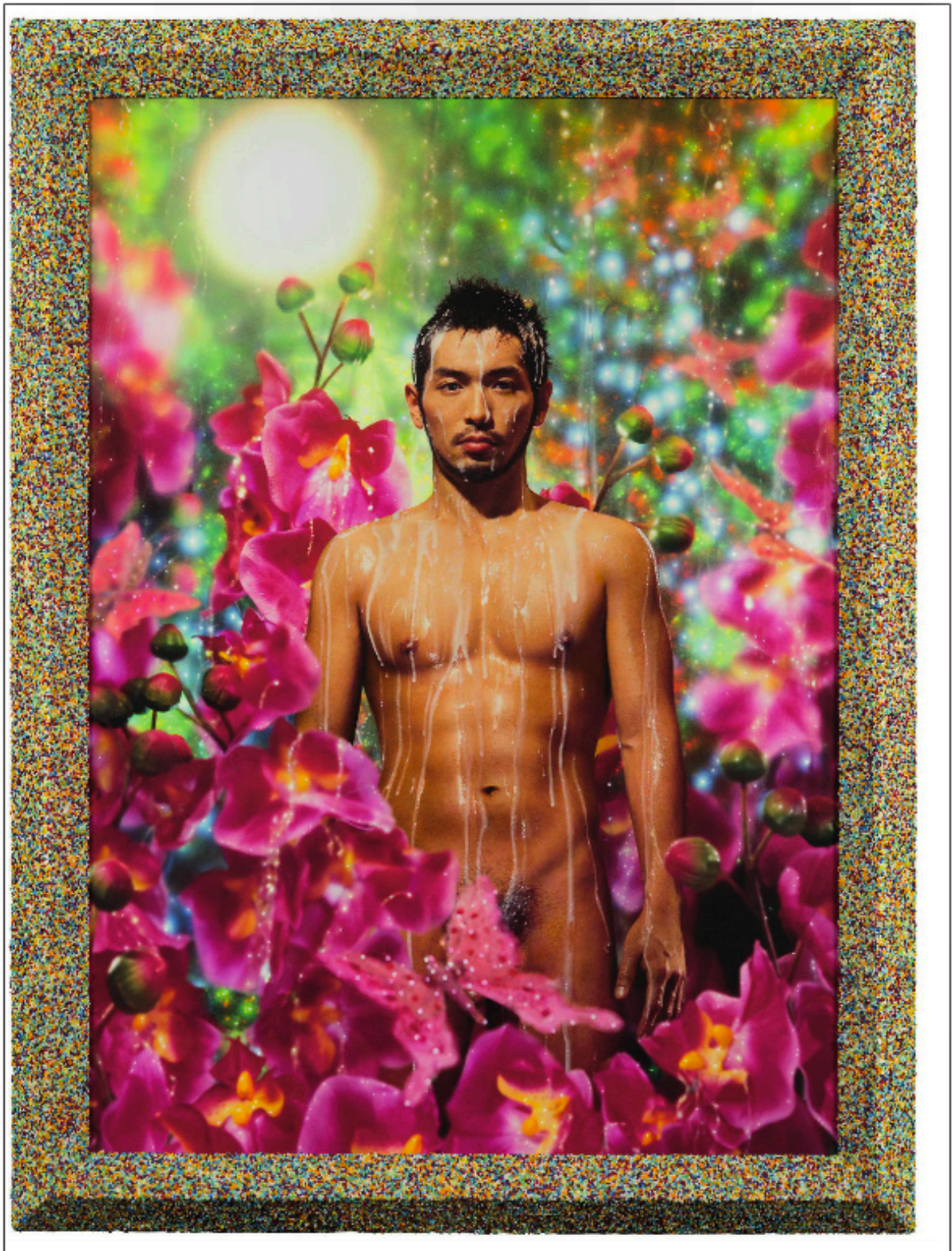
Carte Blanche, at *Mobilier National/ Les Gobelins*
April 07 – October 5, 2014

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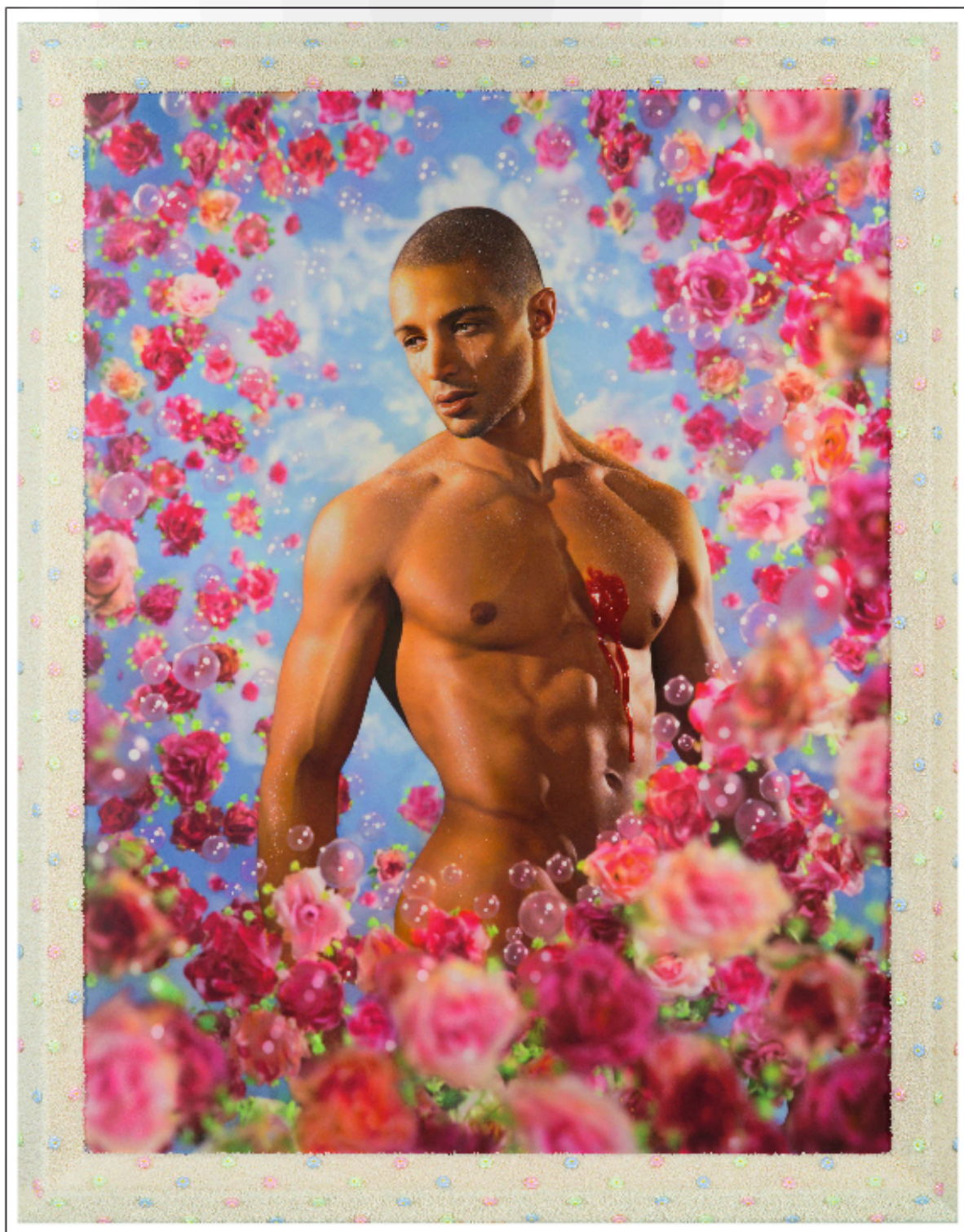


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TOP IMAGE CREDIT

Le Printemps arabe (modèle Taha Bouali), photographie peinte, aquarelle, 2011 Sans cadre 116 x 89 cm = encadrée 129 x 101 cm.

LEFT PAGE IMAGE CREDIT

Lost in Paradise (modèle Kobi Manki), photographie peinte, aquarelle, 2013 Sans cadre 109 x 73 cm = encadrée 113 x 86 cm.