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PRUNE NOURRY

VOGUE.COM, 22 June 2019

Prune Nourry's *The Amazon* Arrives at the Standard, High Line in New York



JUNE 22, 2018 12:00 PM
by ALESSANDRA CODINHA



Prune Nourry with Jennifer Lawrence
Photo: BFA



The French multidisciplinary artist Prune Nourry unveiled her newest work, titled *The Amazon*, on Thursday night with a public performance piece preceded by a private dinner attended by Jennifer Lawrence, Charlotte Gainsbourg, David O. Russell, Darren Aronofsky, and Nourry's husband, the photographer and director JR, in the ivy-covered garden of the Standard Grill. (Artists José Parlá and Stefan Ruiz deejayed the after-party in the bar: "We're JR's house band," Parlá said.) The

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13-foot concrete sculpture has been placed in the middle of the plaza at the Standard, High Line, where it will stay until the end of June. It had been bisected by hundreds of joss sticks, which stuck out from the figure like the shafts of arrows; these were methodically lit after dinner during the performance by the artist and her assistants, who wielded blowtorches. Jon Batiste accompanied the lighting ceremony on his melodica.



Prune Nourry's *The Amazon* in New York.
Photo: BFA



The message behind Nourry's sculpture is one of survivorship and the strength of women in what the artist calls an "imbalanced world." The work is inspired by Greek mythology, a first-second-century Roman statue currently at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the artist's own experience with breast cancer. "Echoing a once-claimed tradition that the Amazons cut off their right breasts to be more competent archers, Prune Nourry will later on break one of the breasts from *The Amazon's* bust in a cathartic gesture, during a secret ceremony," the press materials explained. This work, Nourry said on Thursday, is for all women and all survivors.

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Prune Nourry with Charlotte Gainsbourg
Photo: BFA



The Standard has a history of supporting women in the arts: The hotel chain hosted an installation of Zoe Buckman's *Champ* at the Standard, West Hollywood in March and will launch Sparrow Mart with Lucy Sparrow at the Standard, Downtown LA on August 1. Following the installation's residency, Nourry's *Amazon* will be sold at auction; part of the proceeds will be donated toward education regarding cancer-preventative lifestyles and support for women living with cancer.