

TEMPLON

II

ODA JAUNE

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Oda Jaune Debuts in the US with New Work Exploring Perception of the Woman in Our Time



Defying painterly conventions, the Bulgarian-born Germany-trained artist Oda Jaune employs the canvas as a platform to express visually all the sensations, feelings, and thoughts that escape words. Jaune's paintings emerge as striking, surrealistic visions of human nature, transforming into powerful commentary about the contemporary condition.

Representing her first solo show in the United States, the upcoming exhibition *Miss Understand* showcases Jaune's newest oil paintings and watercolors that will overtake the New York spaces of Templon. Contemplating the female position in contemporary society, Jaune's most recent works explore the discrepancies between the feminine and femininity, sparking vital discussions through sensual, dream-like, and eerie depictions.



Left: Oda Jaune – *B like Barbie*, 2023 © Oda Jaune. Photo: Laurent Edeline. Courtesy of the artist and TEMPLON, Paris —Brussels — New York. / **Right:** Oda Jaune – *A like Apple*, 2023 © Oda Jaune. Photo: Laurent Edeline. Courtesy of the artist and TEMPLON, Paris —Brussels — New York.

Miss Understand

Featuring nearly twenty-five oil paintings and multiple watercolors, the show *Miss Understand* enacts a wordplay with its title, insinuating an act to rewrite the misunderstandings regarding femininity. The paintings' titles extend the process, and with names such as *B like Barbie* or *E like Eve*, the artist reconstructs the alphabet of female existence. Adopting a transtemporal approach, Oda Jaune examines the perceptions of feminity across history and anatomy, centering on metamorphosis as inherent to the female principle, as the artist commented:

” *I feel it's time we move away from all the classifications, preconceptions, and stigma that women are given. I feel it's time we expand our understanding...*

Contrary to the popular plastic doll's idealized, perfectionist, and distorted body, the painter's Barbie embodies female corporeal transformations, outlining the archetypes from the Maiden to the Crone. The recognizable head with the paralyzed, empty expression and rigid, polymer torso top a slouched and timid body with the arms crossed as if trying to hide the wrinkles of age. In *A like Apple*, Jaune fuses a woman's body with an iPhone, commenting on our ever-growing digital presence, a rising technology addiction, and parallel digital identities, while in *F like Fatty*, the artist confronts body image stereotypes. Tributing the Guerilla Girls, the letter G of Jaune's visual alphabet of femininity could be construed as a self-portrait or a personal statement, hinted at by the painter's palette in the lower center of the painting.

A monumental new canvas is at the heart of the exhibition, portraying a baby cradled by soft-winged entities levitating upon a visceral landscape. In the center of the composition, the artist painted a teary eye to allude to the sacrifices of being a mother, transforming the painting into an “ode to motherhood.” Aligning with the feminine notions of gestating, nurturing, and embracing, the gallery downstairs is transformed into a womb-like immersive space of *Miss Understand*. Here, we enter her realm, occupied with a chair, TV, bed, fridge, and rug, exploring the softness associated with the feminine.



Left: Oda Jaune – E like Eve, 2023 © Oda Jaune. Photo: Laurent Edeline. Courtesy of the artist and TEMPLON, Paris —Brussels — New York / **Right:** Oda Jaune – F like Fatty, 2023 © Oda Jaune. Photo: Laurent Edeline. Courtesy of the artist and TEMPLON, Paris —Brussels — New York.

Oda Jaune at Templon

Based in Paris and London, Oda Jaune (b. 1979) has showcased her work in numerous shows across Europe and the United States, including her most recent presentations in *Immortelle* at MO.CO Montpellier Contemporain (2023), *Heart – Romanticism in Contemporary Art* at the Musée de la Vie Romantique in Paris (2020), and *Hands – Solo Show* at SEEN in Antwerp, Belgium (2019).

The exhibition *Miss Understand* will be on view at [Templon](#) in New York from January 11th until March 7th, 2024.

Featured image: Oda Jaune – G like Guerilla Girls, 2023 © Oda Jaune. Photo: Laurent Edeline. Courtesy of the artist and TEMPLON, Paris —Brussels — New York.