

PRESS RELEASE

9 December 2022

JEANNE VICERIAL

ARMORS

7 January – 11 March 2023



Enfant, 2022, textile: halyards, threads, varnished roses

133 x 30 x 35 cm, unique piece

“This army of presences stand tall, displaying their scars of sutured threads. Clad in their ‘armors’, they march proudly into the future, charting a history of femininity,” Jeanne Vicerial

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Galerie Templon will be starting 2023 decked in Jeanne Vicerial's ebony black and white. For her very first gallery show in Paris, the artist is unveiling fifteen new textile sculptures in various formats.

The first person in France to be awarded a PhD in practice-based fashion design, in 2019, and artist-in-residence at the prestigious Villa Medici in 2020, at 31 Jeanne Vicerial has already garnered widespread recognition for her avant-garde approach.

She used her research to overthrow textile industry codes, questioning the made-to-measure/ready-to-wear dichotomy. Her practice then shifted focus onto the place of women and the female body in society, regularly involving artists such as set designers, perfumers, and musicians in her projects.

This new exhibition sees Jeanne Vicerial appropriating the space with her silent army of figures crystallised over time. An avid reader of poetry, she breathes life into these "Armors", her disturbing warrior women clad in love ("amour") as well as armour ("armure"), covering the mannequins entirely in black thread. At the heart of the exhibition an imposing articulated robot, controlled by a software program, dances around a sculpture, weaving a web to capture it with a succession of delicate, endlessly repeated movements. This creative process seems to have spawned various "presences", recumbent women lying on their tombstones in a darkened basement that has become a crypt, mysterious hybrid figures, the very stuff of mythology.

The pilgrimage moves to a different stage with a cabinet of curiosities dedicated to "sex-votos". The artist covers the spotlessly white walls with an accumulation of objects-as-offerings. As she explains: "It's interesting to note the parallels between the textile industry and the world of sculpture: both fields use the term 'seams' for the junction points, the places where parts interlink." Mangled or dismembered, these flowering vulvas, tiny vestimentary organs and Venus bellies seem to look for their bearings. With these curious ceremonial objects, Jeanne Vicerial dives deeper into her exploration of the contemporary place of gender and the female body, turn in turn worshiped and abused over thousands of years.

Born in 1991, Jeanne Vicerial lives and works in Paris. Her passion for clothes design began when she was a teenager. After studying costume design then obtaining a master's in clothes design at the Paris École des Arts Décoratifs in 2015, she started a research project which resulted in a Sciences, Arts, Creation and Research PhD in 2019. She took her research further by teaming up with the mechatronics department at MINES ParisTech to develop a patented robotised process for producing made-to-measure clothes with no waste. She also chose an artistic path which led her to work with Hussein Chalayan before founding research and design studio Clinique vestimentaire.

In addition to producing her own creations, she has quickly established an array of partnerships with artists working in different fields. Her work has been widely shown, including at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris (2018), Villa Medici and Palazzo Farnese in Rome (2020) and Collection Lambert in Avignon (2021), and was recently included in the Centre National des Arts Plastiques collection in Paris as well as the FRAC Auvergne collection. 2021 saw the first major solo exhibition of her work, at Magasins Généraux in Pantin, near Paris.

Jeanne Vicerial's work has featured in several group exhibitions in 2022, including as part of the Festival International des Textiles Extraordinaires at Musée Bargoin in Clermont-Ferrand (September 15, 2022 –

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March 26, 2023), and at the Maximiliansforum In Munich (August 3 – October 16, 2022), Fondation Martell In Cognac (April 6– November 6, 2022), Ballroom Project In Antwerp (May 2022) and Maison Guerlain in Paris (October 19– November 14, 2022). In 2023 her work will be shown at the Musée International des Arts Modestes in Sète (February 14 – September 17, 2023).

As part of the Mondes Nouveaux programme, she collaborated with Louise Hernandez on a transdisciplinary project combining installation, film and performance: *Gisantes. Une renaissance* features four sculptures on display at the Basilica of Saint-Denis in Paris from December 1 to December 31, 2022.

Jeanne Vicerial will create the costumes for "Figures" by Dalila Belaza at the Théâtre de la Cité internationale (17 to 18 April 2023). She will also participate in the collective exhibitions "Imagine!" at the FITE (Festival International des Textiles Extraordinaires) at the Musée Bargoin, Clermont-Ferrand (September 15, 2022 - March 26, 2023), "Au-delà" at the Fondation Lafayette Anticipations (opening on February 14, 2023) and "Beautés" at the FRAC Auvergne (May 27 - September 3, 2023)

Jeanne Vicerial's first monograph will be published in February 2023 to mark the exhibition, with a special contribution from philosopher Emanuele Coccia and interview with historian and researcher Ida Soulard.