

Still Lives

{De silencieuses natures}

Exhibition June 6th > July 22th, 2016

Pauline BAZIGNAN

Jean DUBUFFET

Giuseppe PENONE

Luzia SIMONS

MA GALERIE

Ma Galerie is presenting *Still Lifes (De silencieuses natures)*, an exhibition bringing together four artists: Pauline Bazignan, Jean Dubuffet, Giuseppe Penone and Luzia Simons who has also occupied the main courtyard of the Archives Nationales in Paris with large photographs. Ma Galerie is offering a dialogue between these artists around still life – *nature morte* in French.

The exhibition bypasses this French term with its rather funereal rigidity to show, by adopting the English expression and its literal translation into French, the life that remains *after all*. The charred life of fruits for Pauline Bazignan or the freshly cut life of the flowers in Luzia Simons' arrangements; the invasive life of Giuseppe Penone's interweaving vegetation; finally, *life despite all* in modelled clay like a Holy Shroud or matter like organic cells in Jean Dubuffet's work.

The dialogue between the four artists is presented as a silent conversation; a *pala sacra* with tenuous and repeated echoes. Because if the expression *still lifes* includes a misleading double in its French translation, the exhibition also plays on double vision, a hidden meaning that is different from the visible meaning. Pauline Bazignan's painted flowers arouse, like an optical afterglow, the hallucinated efflorescence of the likes of Redon's work on the Domecy Panels. Her desire is to devote the entire surface of her work to the vital and concentrated force of an entity deprived of its symbolic finery. In *Interior*, the principle of cooking has created a mute life, petrified and eternally present, like the fossilized trace of a vital process. Combustion has suspended the putrescible destiny of fruit; the decay promised to every living organism has been stopped by fire to leave only the pulpy contours of a previous life.

The panoramas of Luzia Simons' freshly cut tulips are less the evocation of an allegorical meaning of flowers than the falsely mellow and clearly brutal metaphor of an accumulative and speculative logic that Dutch capitalism of the 17th century developed around the cultivation of the lily. In the video *Blacklist*, the beam of a scanner sifts an armful of flowers and animates it with undulating life. It causes it to vibrate gently through the pathways of its luminous rays and finishes by withdrawing itself slowly to return the bouquet to its original obscurity.

At first, Giuseppe Penone's sculpture seems to be associated with the types of anatomical objects whose sensual and cruel aesthetic appear to link it to an *écorché* by Gautier-Dagoty. However, nothing in this terracotta comes from sections of cadaver studies; it is on the contrary invisible life that Penone has wanted to make palpable. On looking at it more closely, an imaginary breath passing through the terracotta bronchi and trachea may be seen, going as far as making the mark of the mobile jaw move, as if driven by a deep breath of exhaled air.

Jean Dubuffet's work is at the confluence of two states, between remodelled matter, reconstructed, rethought, and the organic resurgence of primary immortal cells. The taciturn artist's quest for meaning, little said but compact, dense, develops agglomerated bodies, sedimented, nested and shows the traces of a slow and silent observation of surrounding things. *The Palm Grove with Three Birds* subtly expresses the vitality of an oasis sap very clearly.

Each of the four artists has formulated a different approach to the traces that leave life when it circulates, when it freezes or when it eclipses itself. It is a silent conversation.

Mathias CHIVOT, Historian of art



Pauline de BAZIGNAN
27 avril 2016, 2016
Acrylic on paper Heritage
woodfree 315g
136 x 101 cm



Pauline de BAZIGNAN
17 mars 2014, 2014
Acrylic on paper Heritage
woodfree 100g
114 x 83 cm



Pauline de BAZIGNAN
Intérieur, 2016
Ceramic
H: around 8 cm
Several pieces exhibited
with different sizes



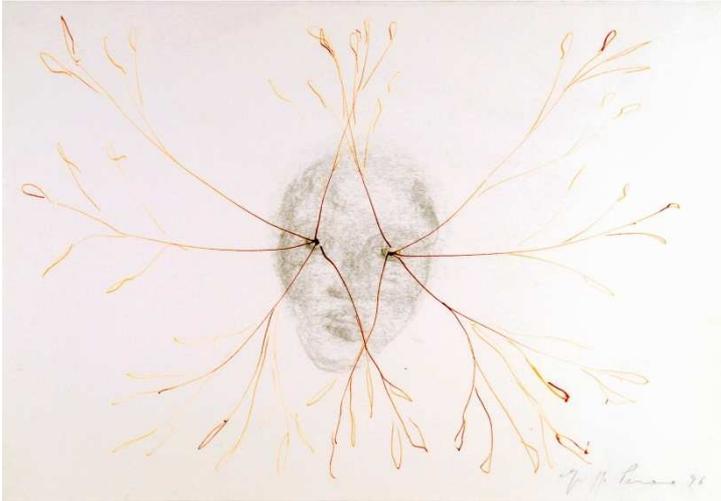
Jean DUBUFFET
*Palmeraie aux trois
oiseaux, 1949*
Watercolor, pencil and ink
on paper
21 x 26 cm



Jean DUBUFFET
Aire médiane claire, 1949
Collage, oil and ink on
paper laid canvas
49,5 x 76 cm



Jean DUBUFFET
*Paysage tavelé ciel
rougeâtre, 1954*
Oil on paper
48,9 x 63,4 cm



Giuseppe PENONE
Untitled, 1996
Gouache and charcoal
on paper
35 x 49 cm



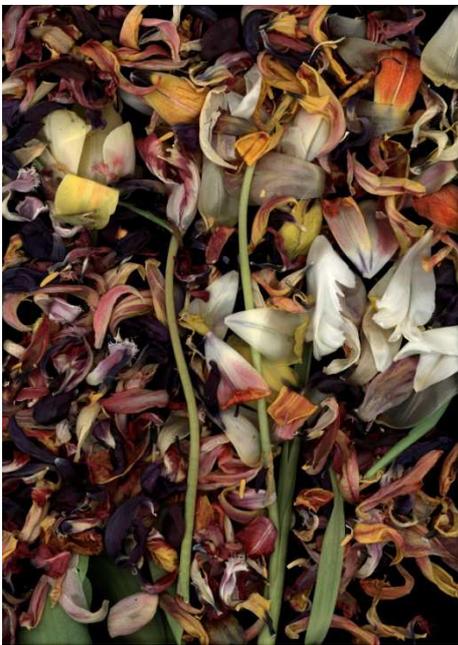
Giuseppe PENONE
Untitled, 1996
Gouache and charcoal
on paper
35 x 49 cm



Giuseppe PENONE
Breath, 1978
Terracotta
Hauteur : 74,5 cm



Luzia SIMONS
Stockage 116, 2011
Scannogramme
Diasc photograph
140 x 126 cm
Ed/5



Luzia SIMONS
Stockage 124, 2011
Scannogramme, Diasc
photograph
177 x 122 cm
Ed/5



Luzia SIMONS
Stockage 155, 2014
Scannogramme, Diasc
photograph
60 x 42 cm
Ed/15



Luzia SIMONS
Black List n°2, 2015
Video, 52 sec
Ed/5

Meeting with Pauline BAZIGNAN and Luisa SIMONS on Saturday the 4th of June, 2016
at MA GALERIE from 3pm to 9pm and on appointment during the exhibition.

High definition pictures on request
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By appointment