

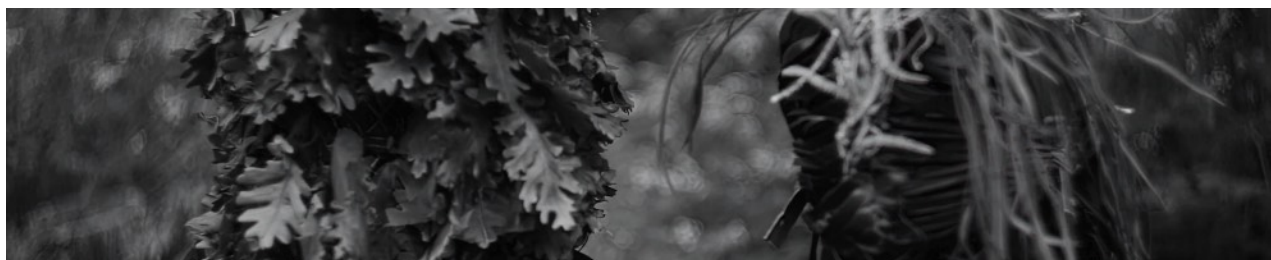
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Nos Natures

MARIE DENIS (FR, 1972)
VLADIMIR VATSEV (BG, 1986)

9 December

10 February 2024



OPENING: Saturday 9 December, from 5pm to 8pm

Alberta Pane Gallery is delighted to present *Nos Natures*, an exhibition by French artist Marie Denis, with a film realized in collaboration with artist and filmmaker Vladimir Vatshev.

Conceived as an "ethnography of nature" in two chapters, this exhibition features both prints, sculptures, and installations by Marie Denis and a film by Vladimir Vatshev, resulting from a close cooperation between the artist and the filmmaker. Although generally described as sculptural, Marie Denis's work takes on a wide variety of forms, with botanical principles as the common thread. Her work reinvents the forms of nature, blending plant specimens and objects transformed by experimentation with materials, and cross-fertilizing artisan skills imbued with ecological awareness.

For this exhibition, the artist invites us to plunge into her universe, through her latest explorations of materials, as well as older

landmark works that have been redesigned for the occasion.

The film presented in the second space of the gallery, directed by Vladimir Vatshev, takes us into a dark, hypnotic universe. Here we find the artist's *Masques*, worn by silhouettes dressed in black, crossing and stretching time, whether in forests, industrial or Gallo-Roman sites, and even the famous Palais Idéal du Facteur Cheval. Created in 2010 during workshops at the École des métiers du Lot in Cahors, the *Masques* series has since been reinvented on several occasions. Hybrid and polymorphic, the *Masques* take the form of moving sculptures, made from plants and various recycled materials.

This show takes us in a dreamlike, unsettling universe, reminding us of our close, paradoxical relationship with Nature.

Opening dates & times

09.12.2023 - 10.02.2024
Tuesday - Saturday, 11H - 19H

More information

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MARIE DENIS
(FR, 1972)

"Marie Denis' artistic research combines plant intelligence and human sensitivity. Relying on a collection of natural materials chosen for their radical forms resulting from millennia of evolution, her works operate through minimal alterations. These interventions, which can sometimes be inspired from artisanal techniques or, simply, be presented in unusual displays, speak to our dual relationship with living things and time. The exhibition thus presents, as if in a black-and-white landscape, plants mineralized by a graphite patina, pressed specimens, and a collection of ageless objects that recall human complicity with plants." - Marie Pleintel

Marie Denis is a French artist who works in and with nature. She scours sites, collecting the ageless objects and natural elements that are her favorite materials. Her work is above all centered on matter and how it can be reinvented. Her approach is also based on botanical principles. Her installations and sculptures are conceived from raw materials and objects that have been diverted from their usual cultural anchors. She likes to bend the rules to realize her visions, in a sensitive, charged and changing herbarium, susceptible to strong interpretations. Her work is sculptural, and the kingdoms of nature are her Ariane's thread. A plant journey that "kaleidoscopes" the idea of nature, its beauty and fragility.

Her work has been exhibited in many institutions in France and abroad. She has been commissioned several important large-scale projects, including recently *Renée ou la nature des choses*, a solo exhibition at the Maison de Chateaubriand (2023-2024) in the Domaine départemental de la Vallée-aux-Loups, Châtenay-Malabry, France ; a commission for the Jean Jaurès secondary school in Bannalec (2023); and the reactivation of *French Touch*, an in situ work for the Domaine de Chamarande in Essonne, France (2023).

Moreover, she won national and international prizes and scholarships, such as *FNAGP* (2015), *DRAC Ile de France* (2011 and 2005) and the above-mentioned residency program at Villa Medici, in Rome.

VLADIMIR VATSEV
(BG, 1986)

Vladimir Vatshev was born in Sofia, Bulgaria. He moved to Paris at the age of 18 to study cinema. After two Masters in Film Research and Production and Directing, he contributed to various media as a journalist and critic for major European festivals. He directed his first short film in 2012, a 27-minute film produced by Les Films d'Ici and the Musée du Louvre, starring Denis Lavant, Philippe Grimbert and Marie-Claude Pietragalla. Since 2014, he has collaborated regularly with director Pippo Delbono, co-designing and producing multimedia installations presented in several cultural institutions, including the Centre Pompidou and Maison Rouge. Vladimir Vatshev also directs feature films, such as his documentary *Europe Terminus*, produced by Les Films d'Ici about the demilitarized zone in Cyprus, as well as short films, such as *De l'Indécence*, accompanying the release of Antoine Bataille's namesake album.

In addition, he produces numerous set designs for plays. In 2023, for example, he designed the video scenography for *Vents Forts*, Jon Fosse's new play, which will premiere during the 2024 season in Paris. He also collaborates with singer Brigitte Fontaine on her shows. Since 2021, he has been developing immersive installations that simultaneously screen up to 19 films curated by him.

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Marie Denis, *Palmiers*, 2021-2023, woven palm leaves, graphite patina, 168 x 62 cm.

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Marie Denis, *Masques*, 2010-2023.