

## Jeremy Demester

OUIDAH

Berlin: Bleibtreustraße 45, 14 March – 25 April 2020



Galerie Max Hetzler is pleased to announce the solo exhibition *OUIDAH* with new works by French artist **Jeremy Demester** in Bleibtreustraße 45. This is Demester's fourth solo exhibition with the gallery and his second solo presentation in Berlin.

Jeremy Demester lives and works between Paris and Ouidah, Benin, where he has established a studio. According to the Voodoo cults of the Yoruba culture, rooted in Togo, Benin and Nigeria, Ouidah is the city of revenants. Living closely to the spirits, Demester creates works inspired – in the strongest sense – by the vicinity of

the otherworld, embodied in the most extraordinary objects, as well as the most common.

The present exhibition was developed through consultation with several Voodoo masters (Vodounnon). An oracle gave the artist twenty-one words. These words, such as sun, moon, arrow or cross, are all symbols that populate the works to activate the world of spirits. Stirred by invisible forces, Demester's paintings embrace the infinite metamorphoses of this cult, through their intense colourism and their exploration of primordial energies.

Demester's works are presented along with art objects from his own collection, created in Ouidah, which bear witness to several aspects of the Voodoo journey. The Voodoo art objects take various forms and continually evolve in response to the fluctuations of the Western market, which can be felt in the availability of certain fabrics or in clothing fashions. Voodoo, an ancestral force, embodies in all materials – it dominates life.

*"Jeremy Demester's painting is action, vision and prose. In search of new possibilities in the world, the painter probes experience through intuition. It is his guide. In front of the artwork, intuition favors astonishment over assurance and pushes the painter to approach the impossible."* (Annabelle Gugnon, 2018)

Jeremy Demester (\*1988, Digne), lives and works in Paris. Demester's work has been presented in solo and group exhibitions, such as at the MUba Eugène Leroy, Tourcoing (2019); Château Malromé, Saint André-du-Bois (2018); Mucciaccia Contemporary, Rome (2017); Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne, Saint-Étienne; Palais de l'École des Beaux-Arts, Paris (both 2016); Zinsou Foundation, Ouidah and Palais des Beaux-Arts, Paris (both 2015), among others. His work can be found in the public collections of the Foundation Zinsou, Ouidah; Istanbul Modern, Istanbul and Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain Saint-Étienne Métropole, Saint-Étienne, among others.

Further exhibitions, fair participations and events:

6 March – 9 May 2020

**Sigmar Polke**

*"ZEITREISE" – Photographs 1966 – 1986*

*Collection Georg Polke*

Goethestraße 2/3, 10623 Berlin

11 March – 16 May 2020

**Christopher Wool**

41 Dover Street W1S 4NS London

21 March – 9 May 2020

**Ida Ekblad**

*A DEEP MEDICINE*

57, rue du Temple 75004 Paris

7 - 15 March 2020

**TEFAF Maastricht**

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