

Press Release

Laure Prouvost *Re-dit-en-un-in-learning CENTER*

6 October – 7 November 2020
67 Lisson Street, London

A NEEDED ACTION IN UNCERTAIN TIMES. The gallery has stopped its regular programming to focus on the future of re-learning/un-learning for the care and pleasure of the new world that awaits ... you will be invited to become something else, a piece of wood, a goat. Your mother might be waiting for you. With intimate slow movements, you can newly re-invent your language and recognise memories, textures and smells. This RE-CENTER-ING will require your whole body to read video, feel listening and touch our stories. After your first treatment we will lead through pictures and trees for meaning and remembrances. And finally, we will come together on the first floor of the center, where moving images will ask you to participate in a final examination and prepare you to interpret reality anew.

For Laure Prouvost's first solo exhibition in London since joining Lisson in 2017, the artist has repurposed the gallery spaces at 67 Lisson Street as an educational environment of sorts, offering willing visitors the opportunity to de-learn or un-learn what they have forgotten they already know, and to newly acquire – or re-learn – a language of her own devising. After navigating a bureaucratic entry point, consisting of the now familiar rituals of distanced movement, attendees will undergo a session of indoctrination in a mock-pedagogical, health-focused institutional setting, through both traditional visual modes of communication such as video, audio and text, as well as through corporeal and tactile experiences.

Diptych panel paintings, pitting images against text, test fluency in this new optical and oral vocabulary: flamingo = angry, bread = work and so on. They suggest that any fixed meanings generally ascribed to objects or utterances can be re-wired, re-learned. While it might seem as though nature has taken over in the next room, thanks to the training previously provided in the exhibition, all participants should now be able to decrypt Prouvost's codified tableaux and thus fully appreciate the significance of a chance encounter between a goat, a tree branch and a cigarette. Of course, any hieroglyphic or linguistic system is open to interpretation, misuse and bastardisation, so here too the limits of Prouvost's imposed dialect are proven to be unstable and prone to breakdown.

Upstairs, Prouvost further stretches these etymological methodologies as visitors are ushered into a cocooned screening room for the final stage of edification. Here a new video work entitled *Re-dit-en-un-in-learning CENTER (to the Centre of un-in-re-dit-Learn)* emphasises and concludes the linguistic training. This film has been co-produced with Van Abbemuseum, where echoes of this installation will occur (from 28 November 2020 to 25 April 2021) and is a sequel to Prouvost's earlier foray into her unconventional lexicon from 2017, entitled *DIT LEARN* (using the French for speak, thus pronounced 'de-learn' in English), produced for Walker Art Centre, in which the viewer was verbally harangued and visually disoriented by a strobing collage of words and images, translations and slippages that destroyed the edifices of meaning, recognition, voicing and seeing. In that previous work we were urged to remember that a hammer means 'no' and a lizard means 'yes' – "this shoe means car," continues Prouvost in her voiceover, "You cannot find the words for the images you see... All becomes one." Upon leaving the center, the induction is over and the real-world examination begins, with the ideographic effects of the technique now translating object and signs into Prouvost's language.

These inquiries into the sensorial imparting of knowledge, the processing of people and the transliteration between modes of thought has developed in the artist's practice over many years, as seen in her watery and labyrinthine pavilion for the Venice Biennale: 'Deep See Blue Surrounding You'. It is also a continuation and part-realisation of her 2019 book,

Legsicon, made for a major solo show at M HKA in Antwerp, in which she gave dictionary definitions for some of her principal themes (artist, boobs, bums, digging, dreams, dust, family...). In this book written pre-COVID 19, Prouvost defined language much as we have come to understand human contact in the intervening months: “Hard to use well. Spreading. Helps communication between humans but also misunderstanding.” There may well be an innate portion of language that we experience or ‘pre-learn’ while growing up, but there is much beyond that which is put upon us, handed down and force-fed to us over the years. As with Prouvost’s recent work on the London Underground, ‘You are deeper than what you think,’ any journey towards understanding, defining, belonging, naturalisation or departure (including Britain’s exit from the EU) can be full of false-turns, bureaucracy and box ticking, with both physical and linguistic barriers often impeding the connections necessary to build relationships, create meaning and ultimately, define love.

About the artist

Language – in its broadest sense – permeates the video, sound, installation and performance work of Laure Prouvost. Known for her immersive and mixed-media installations that combine film and installation in humorous and idiosyncratic ways, Prouvost’s work addresses miscommunication and ideas becoming lost in translation. Playing with language as a tool for the imagination, Prouvost is interested in confounding linear narratives and expected associations among words, images and meaning. She combines existing and imagined personal memories with artistic and literary references to create complex film installations that muddy the distinction between fiction and reality. At once seductive and jarring, her approach to filmmaking employs layered storytelling, quick edits, montage and wordplay and is composed of a rich, tactile assortment of images, sounds, spoken and written phrases. The videos are often shown within immersive environments which comprise found objects, sculptures, painting and drawings, signs, furniture and architectural assemblages, that are rendered complicit within the overarching narrative of the installation.

Laure Prouvost was born in Lille, France (1978) and is currently based in Antwerp. She received her BFA from Central St Martins, London in 2002 and studied towards her MFA at Goldsmiths College, London. She also took part in the LUX Associate Programme. Recent solo exhibitions include: Sydney Biennale, Kunsthalle Lisboa, and Les Abbatoirs in Toulouse all 2020; ‘AM-BIG-YOU-US LEGSICON’, M HKA - Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp, Belgium (2019); Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2018); BASS Museum, Miami, FL, USA (2018); ‘They Are Waiting for You’, Performance for stage at the McGuire Theatre, Minneapolis, MN, USA (2018); SALT Galata, Istanbul, Turkey (2017); Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland (2016); Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan, Italy (2016); Museum Für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt Am Main, Frankfurt, Germany (2016); Red Brick Art Museum, Beijing, China (2016); Haus Der Kunst, Munich, Germany (2015); New Museum, New York, NY, USA (2014); Laboratorio Arte Alameda, Mexico City, Mexico (2014); Max Mara Art Prize for Women, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK and Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy (2013); Tate Britain, London, UK (2013); The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, UK (2012); and Flat Time House, London, UK. In 2011, Prouvost won the MaxMara Art Prize for Women and was the recipient of the Turner Prize in 2013. Prouvost represented France at the 58th International Art Biennial Venice, May-November 2019. June 2019 saw the artist’s first public commission in the UK through Transport for London’s Art on the Underground.

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STUDIO PROUVOST WISHES TO THANK

Adam Sutherland
Alice Padoan
Andrew Mealar
Berengo Glass
Bram Cartigny
Charlotte Daniëlse
Chris Hammond

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Stephanie Becquet
Teri Romkey
The tent
Tijn Driessen
Van Abbemuseum
Victoria Mitchell
Wouter Helsen
Yolande Zola Zoli van der Heide
Zoe Anspach

MOTION



REPETITION



BACKWORD



ON YOUR BICYCLE



SURROUNDED BY SOFTNESS



SLOWNESS



CARE



OWNERSHIP



BREATHING



EMBRACING



SWALLOWING



RE STARTING



IN HARMONY



SOUR SOUND



FREE SPACE



AS ONE



VITAMINS



MELTING



HELP



LOVE



WORK



ANGRY



I AM EXCITED



YOU ARE LATE



YOUR FATHER



TOOTH BRUSH



THEY ARE WAITING FOR YOU



LEFT



HAPPY



CAR



GO THIS DIRECTION



MOTHER



NO



YOU



LISSON GALLERY



Laure Prouvost
This Means Mother, 2020
Oil on canvas (diptych)
80 x 60 x 3.5 cm (each)
31 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 1 3/8 in (each)

80 x 120 x 3.5 cm (overall)
31 1/2 x 47 1/8 x 1 3/8 in (overall)

PROU190181



Laure Prouvost
This Means Your Father, 2020
Oil on canvas (diptych)
80 x 60 x 3.5 cm (each)
31 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 1 3/8 in (each)

80 x 120 x 3.5 cm (overall)
31 1/2 x 47 1/8 x 1 3/8 in (overall)

PROU190182



Laure Prouvost
This Means Love, 2020
Oil on canvas (diptych)
80 x 60 x 3.5 cm (each)
31 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 1 3/8 in (each)

80 x 120 x 3.5 cm (overall)
31 1/2 x 47 1/8 x 1 3/8 in (overall)

PROU190183



Laure Prouvost
This Means Left, 2020
Oil on canvas (diptych)
80 x 60 x 3.5 cm (each)
31 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 1 3/8 in (each)

80 x 120 x 3.5 cm (overall)
31 1/2 x 47 1/8 x 1 3/8 in (overall)

PROU190184

LISSON GALLERY



Laure Prouvost
This Means Work, 2020
Oil on canvas (diptych)
80 x 60 x 3.5 cm (each)
31 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 1 3/8 in (each)

80 x 120 x 3.5 cm (overall)
31 1/2 x 47 1/8 x 1 3/8 in (overall)

PROU190186



Laure Prouvost
This Means Car, 2020
Oil on canvas (diptych)
80 x 60 x 3.5 cm (each)
31 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 1 3/8 in (each)

80 x 120 x 3.5 cm (overall)
31 1/2 x 47 1/8 x 1 3/8 in (overall)

PROU190190



Laure Prouvost
This Means You Are Late, 2020
Oil on canvas (diptych)
80 x 60 x 3.5 cm (each)
31 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 1 3/8 in (each)

80 x 120 x 3.5 cm (overall)
31 1/2 x 47 1/8 x 1 3/8 in (overall)

PROU190191



Laure Prouvost
This Means Angry, 2020
Oil on canvas (diptych)
80 x 60 x 3.5 cm (each)
31 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 1 3/8 in (each)

80 x 120 x 3.5 cm (overall)
31 1/2 x 47 1/8 x 1 3/8 in (overall)

PROU190192

LISSON GALLERY



Laure Prouvost
This Means Breathing, 2020
Oil on canvas (diptych)
80 x 60 x 3.5 cm (each)
31 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 1 3/8 in (each)

80 x 120 x 3.5 cm (overall)
31 1/2 x 47 1/8 x 1 3/8 in (overall)

PROU200026



Laure Prouvost
This Means Repetition, 2020
Oil on canvas (diptych)
80 x 60 x 3.5 cm (each)
31 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 1 3/8 in (each)

80 x 120 x 3.5 cm (overall)
31 1/2 x 47 1/8 x 1 3/8 in (overall)

PROU200028



Laure Prouvost
This Means Go This Direction, 2020
Oil on canvas (diptych)
80 x 60 x 3.5 cm (each)
31 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 1 3/8 in (each)

80 x 120 x 3.5 cm (overall)
31 1/2 x 47 1/8 x 1 3/8 in (overall)

PROU200029



Laure Prouvost
This Means You, 2020
Oil on canvas (diptych)
80 x 60 x 3.5 cm (each)
31 1/2 x 23 1/2 x 1 3/8 in (each)

80 x 120 x 3.5 cm (overall)
31 1/2 x 47 1/8 x 1 3/8 in (overall)

PROU200041

LISSON GALLERY



Laure Prouvost
Re-dit-en-un-in-learning CENTER DMX, 2020
Sound and light installation

PROU200067



Laure Prouvost
Re-dit-en-un-in-a-learning Sofa, 2020
Metal, wood, and tapestry pieces
80 x 122 x 48 cm
31 1/2 x 48 x 18 7/8 in

PROU200036



Laure Prouvost
Re-learning Chair, 2020
Metal, wood, and tapestry pieces
81 x 42 x 48 cm
31 7/8 x 16 1/2 x 18 7/8 in

PROU200039



Laure Prouvost
Un-learning Chair, 2020
Metal, wood, and tapestry pieces
81 x 42 x 48 cm
31 7/8 x 16 1/2 x 18 7/8 in

PROU200040



Laure Prouvost
Re-dit-en-un-in-a-learning, 2020
Video
Duration: 23 minutes 21 seconds
Viewing link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q-TTocgKSMfjo0V2Swv7-mmUgNjv3jr/view?usp=sharing>
Edition 1 of 3 + 2 AP

PROU200042-1

LISSON GALLERY



Laure Prouvost
Narrative painting, *When The Love Was Swallowed*, 2020
Oil on canvas
120 x 90 x 3.8 cm
47 1/8 x 35 3/8 x 1 1/2 in

PROU200037