

GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA

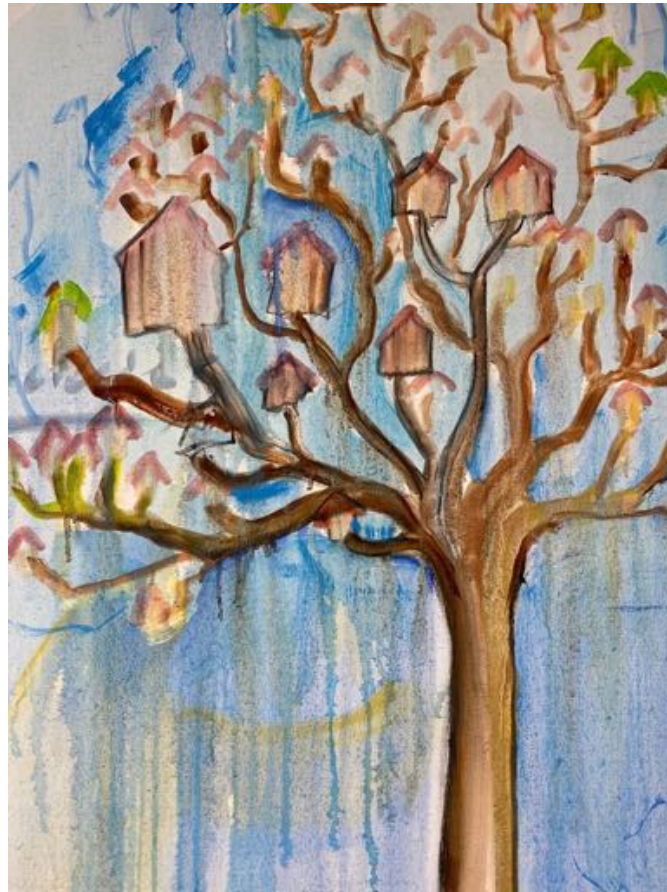
PARIS

FABRICE HYBER

Habiter la forêt

November 12, 2020 - January 23, 2021

18, rue du Bourg Tibourg
75004 Paris



Fabrice Hyber
painting detail, 2020
Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris/Brussels

Galerie Nathalie Obadia is pleased to host artist Fabrice Hyber's third exhibition, *Habiter la forêt*, after *hyberDUBUFFET* in 2017, which took place in both Paris galleries.

Twenty years ago, the artist began sowing 70 hectares of woods near his studio in Vendée. With this exhibition, he returns to the theme of this biotope, which is omnipresent in his work and is simultaneously subject, paradigm, utopia and life project. Through a group of recent paintings and ceramics, Fabrice Hyber examines the ties between forest and city, nature and civilization, the mutations that occur when they shift back and forth, at a time when a "return to green" is more relevant than ever.

Winner of the Golden Lion at the 1997 Venice Biennale, Fabrice Hyber has, for the last 30 years, developed an oeuvre reminiscent of a gigantic rhizome, a complex system where thought, protean activity and visual experimentation come together in a network, according to a principle of perpetual transformation and proliferation. "*Most of the time, my paintings become projects. Research projects, designs for objects or even new behaviors.*" Fabrice Hyber's pictorial work cannot therefore be dissociated from the experiments and initiatives that he carries out, such as this sowing of the grounds in Vendée: resembling control panels or story boards, his paintings allow him to take stock, digest and assimilate the data and information that emerge from his research, and are visual indicators of a thought in action that transcends the canvas's frame.

The forest is all the more central in Fabrice Hyber's practice and in his engagements, given how the principle of germination has often served him as a template for creation and analogy. Numerous species, "man-trees," flora, mushrooms and tentacular roots dwell in this great ecosystem that is the artist's visual universe, where the primary concern has to do with circulation, flux, natural cycles—all brought to life by an aesthetic of scribbled observation, quick sketch and scientific intuition steeped in humor. In fact, Fabrice Hyber defines his work as being "*mushroom seeds that can wait thousands of years before sprouting and spreading according to a process of uncontrollable proliferation.*" Semantic and linguistic slippages, communicating vessels, underground connections and the addition and continual

reuse of external objects all originate from this organic and viral abundance, which itself mimics the movement of life, where resin, serving as a binding agent, also plays the role of sap. Unsurprisingly, this “Hyber green”—borrowed mischievously from the ecologists—has become a true signature: in this intentionally joyous and artificial artist's palette, the “Hyber green” acts as a unifying substance and a program in and of itself.

What's more, Fabrice Hyber appropriates climate issues with an overflowing and inspired imagination that nurtures a utopic project, that of “living in a forest.” From the microcosmic transformation of the molecule that becomes an atom, to the mutation of a virgin nature into a civilization, Fabrice Hyber focuses his recent research around the tipping point. Based on the idea that a city is perhaps modeled after a forest, he weaves a parallel that generates all the thematic declinations and visual inventions that fill his work: “*The rules of survival in a forest have been replaced by regulations that quickly become repression. [...] A house's plumbing when connected to a city's network resembles branches or roots, but also streams or springs.*” Artistic intuitions and concrete actions inform each other in this project that hopes to inspire new behaviors: “*The puddles can become containers, the bark an element of comfort, the clearing a garden, the foliage a roof. Over the last few months, I focused on this change of point of view, which I embraced 20 years ago by sowing a forest, and I renewed with familiar gestures or reinvented them.*”

Not wanting to live in conflict with the world, Fabrice Hyber advocates, instead, a positive and fertile ecology, one that is open and favorable to change, just like his work, which he built around the happy assimilation of diverse mutations. This enthusiasm is apparent in everything he makes and he sets it as a rule of conduct: “*I think that a real ecology is truly generous rather than nostalgic and dried out, why not the artifice of a very sophisticated, refined construction.*”

Born in 1961, in Luçon (Vendée, France), Fabrice Hyber lives and works in Paris.

Since getting his start in the 1980s and becoming one of the youngest winners of the Golden Lion at the 1997 Venice Biennale, the artist has enjoyed growing attention on the international scene. His works have been exhibited in numerous prestigious institutional spaces in France and abroad, and were included, over the last 20 years, in important, international artistic events. In 2018, Fabrice Hyber was elected to the Académie des Beaux-Arts.

Fabrice Hyber's work was recently the object of solo exhibitions such as *Prototypes*, in 2019, at Appartement 22 in Rabat (Morocco); *hyberDUBUFFET*, in 2017, at Galerie Nathalie Obadia in Paris (France). In 2015, Bart De Baere, the director of M HKA in Antwerp (Belgium), presented *Formes des mots* and invited the artist to participate in the 6th Moscow Biennial (Russia); the White Box in New York (USA), an alternative space in the Bowery, presented *Maison des POFs*, curated by Tony Guerrero; and the CRAC Languedoc Roussillon in Sète (France) gave him an ambitious solo exhibition titled *2716m2*, which brought together over 300 paintings. In 2013, he was the subject of *Raw Materials* at the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art in Newcastle (UK); in 2012, his solo exhibition *Matières Premières* was held at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris (France) and enjoyed public and critical success. That same year, he was the subject of *Essentiel* at the Fondation Maeght in Saint-Paul-de-Vence (France), where he presented his homeopathic paintings, an exhibition that was reprised in 2014 by Galerie der Stadt Tuttlingen (Germany); and also of *Prototypes d'objets en fonctionnement (POF)* at the MAC/VAL in Vitry (France). In 2012, *Sans Gêne*, a monumental fresco on ceramic commissioned by the Pasteur Institute in Paris (France), was unveiled.

The artist was also included in significant exhibitions held at prestigious institutions, including, in 2020, at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris (France), with *Notre monde brûle*; in 2019, at the Fondation Cartier in Paris with *Nous les arbres*, and at the Fondation Carmignac in Porquerolles (France) with *La Source*; in 2018, at the Musée de Vence in Saint-Paul-de-Vence (France), with *Picasso et après: un éloge de la fabrique* (Picasso-Méditerranée); in 2015, at the Centre Pompidou Metz (France), with the group exhibition *Aura. Art et télépathie de Rodin à nous jours*, curated by Pascal Rousseau, which brought together works by 19th- to 21st-century artists, from Rodin to Fabrice Hyber; in 2014, he participated in the Busan Biennale (South Korea); he was also included in the exhibition *Narcisse, l'image dans l'onde* at the François Schneider Foundation in Wattwiller (France) and in *Brave New Worlds: Utopia in Dystopia* at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila (Philippines); in 2013, he participated in the Lyon Biennale (France).

Fabrice Hyber has been represented by Galerie Nathalie Obadia since 2014.

Paris Bourg-Tibourg

Fabrice Hyber

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November 12, 2020 - January 23, 2021

Antoine Renard

AMNESIA

February - End of March 2021

Paris Cloître Saint-Merri

Luc Delahaye

Le Village

September 4 - November 14, 2020

Rosson Crow

Next Year at Marienbad

November 21, 2020 - January 30, 2021

Paris Cloître Saint-Merri II

Agnès Varda

Valentine Schlegel par Agnès Varda

5 novembre - 19 décembre, 2020

Brussels

Rina Banerjee

Irresistible Earth

October 28 - December 19, 2020

Lu Chao

Black Fruit

January 14 - March 6, 2021

For further information, please contact: **Eva Ben Dhiab**

evab@nathalieobadia.com / + 33 (0) 1 53 01 99 76

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T +33 (0)1 42 74 67 68

INFO@NATHALIEOBADIA.COM

WWW.NATHALIEOBADIA.COM