

GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA

BRUXELLES

JORIS VAN DE MOORTEL

Les Paradis Artificiels

June 3 – July 17, 2021



Joris Van de Moortel, *Alche Mist (on Acne Vulgaris)*, 2020, Offset prints, glass, neon, acrylic, woodcut print on paper, UV coating and artist's wooden frame, 44 x 34 x 7 cm (17 5/16 x 13 3/8 x 2 3/4 in.).

The first floor of the gallery is dedicated to Belgian artist Joris Van de Moortel, who has been much talked about in the last few months: he was awarded the Prix de la Monnaie de Paris where he will be realizing his own medal, and his work will be exhibited at the Triennial for contemporary art of Courtrai and the art festival Watou in Belgium.

Les Paradis Artificiels (The Artificial Paradises) presents a group of recent works that inscribe themselves in his exploration of madness and revisits its traditional iconography, canonical figures and founding myths.

The allegory of the "Ship of Fools" (borrowed from 16th-century Flemish painting and revived by an alternative counterculture), the figure of the alchemist (incarnation of the Medieval mad scientist and ever-present in 19th-century literature), religious rites, esoteric legends and popular folklore imbue this corpus comprising mural works, prints and neon-lit collages, watercolors and light installations.

The watercolors form an integral part of the artist's work, but it is the first time they are exhibited as such to the public. While these constitute preliminary studies in the narrative development of the artist's oeuvre, they are also works in their own right, dense and generous, attesting to an unbridled imagination. In them, Joris Van de Moortel deploys all the mythology of volcanic peaks, areas rife with alchemical activity that ambiguously symbolized places of pilgrimage and of exile for the mentally ill.

This group of works depicts a one-way voyage toward a marginalized world, one that is spiritual and underground, parodic and transgressive. Their parallel with the present times, marked by an epidemic (once again, referencing the Middle Ages), is underlined by Joris Van de Moortel, who, more generally, questions both the artist's place in today's society and our awareness as to the norms and materialistic values that characterize it.

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The Baudelairian reference of the exhibition's title puts the accent on inspiration as another way to access parallel worlds.

Born in Ghent, in 1983, Joris Van de Moortel lives and works in Antwerp (Belgium).

Having graduated from the Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin (Germany) in 2013, and from the Higher Institute of Fine Arts (HISK) in Ghent (Belgium) in 2009, Joris Van de Moortel is one of the most remarkable artists of the contemporary Belgian scene.

Joris Van de Moortel was the subject of noteworthy solo exhibitions, including *Guitare préparée* at SintLukas Galerie (Brussels, Belgium) in 2019; *Cachivage Bugui Bugui* at BOZAR (Palais des Beaux-Arts in Bruxelles, Belgium) in 2018; *Pink Noises*, his first solo exhibition in the United States, at Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta in 2016; *Ça vous intéresse l'architecture?* Botanical vibrations travel through the air tangled as wires, attempting to play with the rhythmic structure at Centre d'art Be Part (Waregem, Belgium) in 2015. In October 2019, Galerie Nathalie Obadia exhibited Joris Van de Moortel's new series of works on paper, during the Art on Paper fair (BOZAR, Brussels, Belgium). Joris Van de Moortel also participated in several important group exhibitions, including *Eyes East Bound* during the 13th edition of the Cairo International Biennale of Art (Egypt) in 2019; *Danser Brut* at LaM (Lille Métropole Musée d'art moderne, d'art contemporain et d'art brut, Villeneuve d'Ascq, (France) in 2018; *Ecce Homo* at the Mayer Van Den Bergh Museum (Antwerp, Belgium) in 2017, which brought together around fifty other Belgian artists including Luc Tuymans, Michaël Booremans, and Ann Veronica Janssens; *Rebel, Rebel* at MAC's (Musée des arts contemporains de la Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles, Grand Hornu, Belgium) in 2016; *Passion – Fan behaviour and art*, a traveling exhibition that took place in 2015 and 2016 at the Ludwig Museum (Budapest, Hungary), the Stadtgalerie (Kiel, Germany), the Künstlerhaus (Nuremberg, Germany), and Künstlerhaus Bethanien (Berlin, Germany); *Des choses en moins, des choses en plus* at the Palais de Tokyo (Paris, France) in 2014; *Upside down Part 2 Let's Dance* at SMAK (Ghent, Belgium) in 2013; *Spontaneously* at the Zacheta National Gallery of Art (Warsaw, Poland) in 2012; and *Exploded view* at Centraal Museum (Utrecht, Netherlands) also in 2012. In June 2019, Joris Van de Moortel won the Cairo International Biennale award for his participation in its 13th edition (Cairo, Egypt).

Works by Joris Van de Moortel are held by important institutional and private collections, such as the Vehbi Koç Foundation (Istanbul, Turkey); the Dena Foundation for Contemporary Art (Paris, France/New York, USA); the collection of Centraal Museum (Utrecht, Netherlands); the Collection Raja (Roissy-en-France, France); and the Ghisla Art Collection (Locarno, Switzerland).

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Galerie Nathalie Obadia

Brussels

Charles Decoster

Laure Prouvost

Reaching hi her grounds from the rub he she we grow

April 8 - May 29, 2021

Joris Van de Moortel

Les Paradis Artificiels

June 3 - July 17, 2021

Summer Show

June 12 - July 17, 2021

Galerie Nathalie Obadia

Paris

Cloître Saint-Merri I

Jorge Queiroz

Blink

April 24 - June 6, 2021

Roger-Edgar Gillet

June 12 - July 24, 2021

Cloître Saint-Merri II

Nú Barreto

L'imparfait et l'impératif

Until June 12, 2021

Jessica Stockholder

June 19 - July 24, 2021

Galerie Nathalie Obadia

Paris

Bourg-Tibourg

Sophie Kuijken

April 24 - June 26, 2021