

Jérémy Demester
FIRE WALK WITH ME

Goethestrasse 2/3, Berlin

10 November 2017 – 20 January 2018

Opening: 10 November, 6–8 pm



Jérémy Demester, *La loup des bois*, 2017

Galerie Max Hetzler is pleased to announce the upcoming solo exhibition *FIRE WALK WITH ME* by French artist Jérémy Demester in Goethestrasse 2/3. This is Demester's second solo exhibition with the gallery and his first solo presentation in Berlin.

Jérémy Demester explores the nature of art and its relation with the founding myths of our world: symbolism, energies, alchemy, fate, sacred representations... His paintings and sculptures can thus never be taken at surface value as they are always layered with diverse, and sometimes cryptic, meaning. In reference to his nomadic roots, Demester describes himself a gypsy painter and a quest for identity underpins his work.

This new series of works was completed during the artist's ten almost monastic months spent in his studio in the south of France and marks a surprising turn in his practice. The works express a dialogue with figuration and natural elements, as well as with the personal history of the artist (memories from his childhood or from recent trips to Africa and America). These memories are embodied by sunrises and sunsets, forests and timeless moments between the past and the present, raising questions about the ideas of *still-life* and subjectivity.

Demester's paintings and sculptures involve a strong presence of both body and motion. The abstract works, including blurred lines and gradations, usually created with the use of spray utensils or with a computer, are here made by hand using the old master's techniques and thus create a genuine sensorial and physical experience. Influenced by the spirit of Caspar David Friedrich and Arnold Böcklin, each canvas is the abstract expression of a particular memory, a narrative. The abstraction gives free reign to meditation, as if we were looking at a sky in the romantic or the symbolist tradition.

Another language, neither abstract nor figurative, is employed by the artist in a series of paintings inspired by the patterns of war paintings of native American-Indian tribes. Using specific industrial and military painting techniques, Demester conceives each series as an experiment oscillating between building up a visual information and implementing the techniques of its subsequent distortion.

A homage by Jérémy Demester to the late French artist Raymond Hains will open simultaneously in Bleibtreustrasse 45.

Jérémy Demester (*1988, born in Digne, France) lives and works in Paris. In 2014, Jérémy Demester was awarded the Aurige Finance Prize. A graduate of the Rocailles School of Fine Arts in Biarritz and the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris, he also received Dean's Honours and the Friends of the Beaux-Arts Prize in 2015. His work has been the subject of several solo shows, for instance at Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne and Palais de l'École des Beaux-Arts, Paris (both 2016), Zinsou Foundation in Ouidah, Benin (2015), and ENSBA Paris (2014). In 2016, his work has been included in several group shows such as *Ciel d'Ether* at the Brownstone Foundation in Paris, *Matière Grise* at Galerie Max Hetzler Paris and *Das Bild hängt schief* at Galerie Max Hetzler Berlin. Demester's works are represented in the collections of the Istanbul Modern, Zinsou Foundation and Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain Saint-Étienne Métropole.

Further exhibitions and fair participations:

18 October –25 November 2017

Bridget Riley *Measure for Measure.*
New Disc Paintings
57, rue du Temple 75004 Paris

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Opening: 10 November, 6–8 pm

Raymond Hains *You know nothing Raymond*
(a homage by Jérémy Demester)
Bleibtreustrasse 45, 10623 Berlin

10 November 2017 – 20 January 2018
Opening: 10 November, 6–8 pm

Christoph Niemann
Bleibtreustrasse 45, 10623 Berlin

2 December 2017 – 20 January 2018
Opening: 2 December, 6–9 pm

Toby Ziegler *Sculpture*
57, rue du Temple 75004 Paris

7 – 10 December 2017

Art Basel Miami Beach

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