

JÉRÉMY DEMESTER

FTW

Paris: 57, rue du Temple, 21 February – 30 March 2019



"She stood in tears amid the alien corn"
John Keats "Ode to a Nightingale"

Galerie Max Hetzler is delighted to announce **Jérémy Demester's** exhibition "FTW". This is the artist's third solo exhibition at Galerie Max Hetzler and his second at the Paris gallery.

The sculpture representing a hermit is at the origin of the exhibition "FTW". A vagabond dressed in frayed rags, with his blind human eyes, he made an amphora his home, living one day at a time. He is Diogenes the Cynic.

Indifferent to cultural conventions, he discourses, eats and masturbates in public. Carrying a lamp in full daylight, he wanders around the city looking for a human being, repeating tirelessly 'I am looking for a man' to each stranger he meets.

The hermit "FTW #6" is always armed; his shotgun serving as a walking stick. The three letters he overlooks – FTW – state a riddle that spans over all seven paintings. It is put to the test throughout the exhibition.

The hill is ablaze. A last tree resists. Its white hot trunk holds the abyss back while its top calls for an abstraction of the forms ("FTW #1").

Ruth, mother of a thousand of sons, mourns her future orphans. She stands amidst the corn in John Keats' poem "Ode to a Nightingale" ("FTW #2").

The stone arch is a metal threshold. Symbolic of a voracious technical growth, it is yet the birthplace of what will also rescue ("FTW #3").

In the hermit's home, at the very bottom of the amphora, the altarpiece - theatre of rhythms and gestures – opens itself ("FTW #4").

Upright of the white birches, poplars suggests a world of lava, a possible future without humankind ("FTW #5" and "FTW#8").

A new divinity, ruthless, he doesn't serve anyone. He is the worlds' killer ("FTW #7").

J.D

Jérémy Demester (1988, Digne, France) lives and works between Paris, France and Ouidah, Benin. A graduate of the the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris, he received Dean's Honours and the Friends of the Beaux-Arts Prize in 2015. His work has been the subject of several solo shows including Stiftung zur Förderung zeitgenössischer Kunst in Weidingen (Germany), 2018; Château Malromé (Bordeaux region), 2018; 33 engravings for Benji's revenge, Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain Saint-Étienne Métropole, 2016; Palais de l'Ecole des Beaux-Arts (Paris), 2015 and Original Zeke, Zinsou Foundation (Benin), 2015. He participated to group shows such as *Matière Grise*, Galerie Max Hetzler (Paris), 2017; *Das Bild hängt schief*, Galerie Max Hetzler (Berlin), 2016 and *Ciel d'éther*, Brownstone Fondation (Paris), 2014. In 2018, he created the ballet 'Courage' for *Peindre la Nuit* exhibition at Centre Pompidou-Metz.

Demester's works are included in the collections of Zinsou Foundation, Istanbul Modern and Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain Saint-Etienne Métropole.

Further exhibitions and fair participations:

Günther Förg

An Intimate Encounter: The Early Years

19 February – 6 April 2019

Opening: 19 February, 6-8 pm

41 Dover Street, W1S 4NS London

Urs Fischer

Sirens

1 March – 12 April 2019

Opening: 1 March, 6-8 pm

Bleibtreustraße 45, 10623 Berlin

Goethestraße 2/3, 10623 Berlin

TEFAF Maastricht

16 – 24 March 2019

Art Basel Hong Kong

29 – 31 March 2019

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