



GALLERY ARTS

EST 2016

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Possible Cause of Life | Jerome Rapin

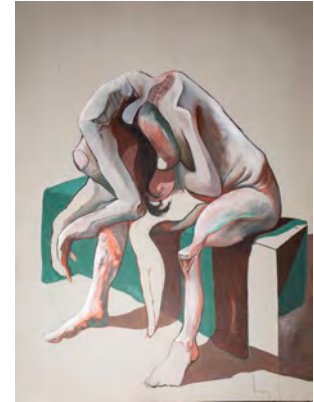
On View: Sept 12 - Nov 9th, 2019

Reception: Thurs, Sept 12, 2019. 6pm - 8pm

Location: 102 - 1688 West 1st Avenue Vancouver, BC

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Femme assise sur un banc, 2019
Jerome Rapin @ Z Gallery Arts

Jérôme Rapin's preferred medium is the drawing. He draws with a quick line and captures the body of his models at the moment. The body is the real subject of this series, not the face, but the feminine flesh recognizable by a posture, an attribute, a frozen movement, a whole that characterizes the body in its entirety. The colour appears in this series by the use of painting, a painting with very Baconian inspirations and where we clearly feel the influence of Lucian Freud which the artist admires. It could determine a carnation similar to the way that it's treated by the Bulgarian artist Oda Jaune. Both, Jérôme Rapin and Oda Jaune need to show what is hidden under the surface of appearances. Then the pink shades mingle with the gray and pull towards the green to embrace an unconventional body. No stereotype, no smooth and sublimated aesthetics but assembled fragments of coloured skins that translate an ambiguity: how can the body be so resistant and so fragile at the same time? Sometimes skin hides the worst pain. Here, it is the disease that transpires, the one that Jerome Rapin was able to observe closely because he sees his mother in the fight against cancer since a very young age. It is especially from her that he has learned the danger of medication, and from her that he has understood the pangs of allopathic medicine that heals somewhere to destroy elsewhere. Then the pieces of the painted skins, those of the "woman in the gray room" intertwine together in a common murmur, that of an ever alive body that reads each being to its materiality and finiteness.

Sandra Barre



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Le médium de prédilection de Jérôme Rapin est le dessin qu'il trace d'un trait rapide et vif et qui saisit le corps de ces modèles dans l'instant. Et c'est bien le corps qui est présent dans cette série, non pas le visage, mais les chairs féminines reconnaissables à une posture, à un attribut, à un mouvement figé, à un tout qui caractérise le corps dans son ensemble.

La couleur apparaît dans cette série par l'usage de la peinture, une peinture aux inspirations très baconiennes et où l'on sent très nettement l'influence de Lucian Freud que l'artiste admire. Elle pourrait déterminer une carnation proche de celle que traite l'artiste bulgare Oda Jaune, qui partage avec Jérôme Rapin la nécessité de montrer non pas ce qui se lit à la surface des apparences, mais ce qui se cache en dessous. Alors les nuances rosées se mêlent au gris et tirent vers le vert pour embrasser un corps non conventionnel.

Nul stéréotype, nulle esthétique lisse et sublimée, mais plutôt des fragments assemblés de peaux colorées qui traduisent une ambiguïté : comment le corps peut-il être si résistant et si fragile à la fois ? Parfois, la peau dissimule les pires maux. Ici, c'est la maladie qui transpire, celle que Jérôme Rapin a pu observer de près puisque depuis très jeune, il voit souffrir sa mère dans la maladie et dans sa lutte contre le cancer. C'est notamment d'elle qu'il a appris les morsures qu'impose une lourde médication, et d'elle encore qu'il a compris les affres de la médecine allopathique qui soigne quelque part pour détruire ailleurs. Alors, les morceaux de corps peints, ceux de la « femme dans la chambre grise » s'imbriquent ensemble dans un murmure commun, celui d'un corps toujours vivant qui relit chaque être à sa matérialité et à sa finitude.

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Jerome Rapin was born in Roanne, France in 1975. He continues, in parallel, the organization of life drawing sessions, and the first drawings and watercolors for the series ‘body extracts’ - referring to his mother’s fight – are born.

From 2007, in London and Cardiff, Jérôme exhibited in a professional setting through different galleries (Kooywood Gallery, Coleman, Degree Art Gallery ...) and his work in drawings are shown in contemporary art fairs (London, Bristol).

During his London years, he continued drawing and painting and befriended the many artists who crossed his path. In 2011, he went to Saint Barths (French West Indies) to honor a position of interior designer. He finally settled on his own in 2015 to find time for painting, drawing and photography, three activities in which he now dedicates all his time. Several exhibitions of his latest works have taken place then. After leaving the island in September 2017, he settles in France near La Rochelle where he has set up his art studio, dedicating now 100% of his time to art, drawing and painting.

Jérôme was awarded the distinction of ‘painter of the year 2017’ by the French Art Magazine ‘Pratique des Arts’ with ‘Robb’ from the series ‘BEAUTE CACHÉE’, a gigantic oil on canvas portrait. He has also shown his work during the prestigious ‘Salon des Artistes Indépendants’ in Le Grand Palais in Paris early 2019.