



TOUT BÊTEMENT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NICOLAS GUILBERT
SCULPTURES BY MARIE CHRISTOPHE

EXHIBITION FROM JULY 4 TO AUGUST 29, 2015

During the summer season, FLAIR Galerie will show two unusual artists whose work from the very start took hold of animal figures. The snapshots in color or in black and white by Nicolas Guilbert, and the wire sculptures by Marie Christophe, make up a touching bestiary in which humor and lightness predominate.

It was the anachronism of the animal in the city that led **Nicolas Guilbert** to take an interest in animals. The revelation occurred during his many journeys in India where elephants, monkeys and dogs wander quite naturally among the humans. He has no pet, he loves mankind and cities. Nicolas Guilbert is a city-dweller and practicing photography brought him close to the animal world. Lengthy walks in the cities enabled him to practice simultaneously his love of images and his taste for capture. A beloved decisive moment!

Between the first shot taken with the Instamatic of a giraffe with its head coming out of the top of a lorry, published in the readers' rubric in Paris-Match, and the very first book *Animaux et cie*, regrouping thirty-five years of shooting, there has been a whole life with images. Drawing, painting, illustration, carrying out lay-outs for books, and spending time with the admired photographers. For him, as he was not a photographer, he took photos. Without boasting. Here, one does not like dilettantes, so a self-taught dilettante, you can just imagine!

Therefore it took a whole life, and even a second one, to be reborn as a photographer. Here are the images intermingling a tender humor and enchanted motion. Look at the portrait of a little dog climbing onto a four poster bed, becoming an aristocrat with a ruff, against a background of rich tapestries.

Nicolas Guilbert practiced for a long time photography in black and white, following the tradition of street photography. Then, one morning, he went to take a look at colors and, suddenly, it was like a room that has been refreshed, a painting that has been dusted off. He has become classical, headlong in modernity. Walking. For a long while. Looking, looking harder, capturing, looking further, waiting, capturing. Then closing himself off inside the studio, and looking once more. Photography is a history of desire. The spectacle of the world is the same for everyone. And then there is the one who wants above all for it to happen, for it to balance out. So, for a brief instant, chaos takes shape before his eyes. Thus are born images and with them, photographs.

Nathalie Cattaruzza

April 2015

Close to nature, to trees and flowers, **Marie Christophe** nonetheless does not have a companion coated in fur, in scales nor in feathers. Apart from the two love birds in her studio, her house does not shelter any animals and yet, for nearly twenty years, she has been creating an elegant bestiary made of wire, as light as a bird feather. The specific theme of the animal provides her with a creative freedom which anthropomorphic representation would not. Too many references. Marie Christophe is a sculptor who, for fear of getting bored with her work, pursues unceasingly and most happily, the same gestures, unwinding her spool of wire according to commissions and to her inspiration.

In Paris she attended courses in a very academic drawing school, then took classes in a school of volume. She studied all the techniques and used all the materials except those of wire. Very soon after leaving school, the need to work, to create, felt almost like a physical craving, leading her to ask for a position in a friend's workshop. She wanted to be very small, very discreet. On account of the constraints generated by the space, she came across the perfect material. Since then, settled in the Gers, she has been working on wire of two millimeters in dia-

meter. A detail which is the secret of her work. Thus, she can twist, fold the material and give it shape simply by making knots. She refuses to use welding. She does not want a mask, the noise, the smell that would ensue. Those imitations force her to provide her sculptures with an inner solidity, an invisible structure. Everything has to be balanced.

Therefore it is in a clean studio, very tidy, and almost silent, that she draws in space. In black and white, like those swift sketches that capture the essence of their subject within a few lines. Marie Christophe's animal sculptures are of that ilk. Then she adds color by sometimes including ceramics, wooden balls, and pearls. Once the idea is born, one must act swiftly. It is like giving birth. The slight silhouettes reticulated sometimes appear to carry out, according to their random placing in the studio, a fortuitous dialogue that brings a smile to their creator, busy at her tasks. A complicity that her creations, octopus, pink flamingoes, and birds, will continue to carry out joyfully in the gallery in Arles, within the vibrations of the Camargue and of the Mediterranean close by.

Nathalie Cattaruzza
April 2015

BIOGRAPHY: NICOLAS GUILBERT

Born in 1958 in Paris, an illustrator since his adolescence and until the mid-90s, Nicolas Guilbert had his first Parisian exhibition in 1984. Since then, he has published several books of drawings and exhibited in various Parisian galleries, the numerous facets of a very graphic pictorial body of work, which has always privileged the stroke, and paper supports. He has combined paintings, drawings and photographs which led to several exhibitions in Paris, between 2004 and 2009.

Since 2010, his photographic work on "humanimality" has been the subject of two books and of several exhibitions specifically in the Musée de la Chasse, in Paris, and in Arles, in the Rencontres de la Photographie in 2011.

Currently engaged in several projects under way, in various cities in Europe, he will publish at the end of the year *Paris/Paradis* in the Editions Flammarion, a photographic journal, poetical and amusing, covering thirty-five years of his Parisian life.

ONE-MAN SHOWS

PHOTOGRAPHIE

- 2015 « Tout bêtement » with the sculptures of Marie Christophe, FLAIR Galerie, Arles
- 2014 « Connivences, dialogues photographique » with Patrick Zachmann, Musée de la Photographie André Villers, Mougins
- 2011 « Animonuments, voyage sentimental à travers la France » Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature, Paris.
- 2011 « Animonuments, voyage sentimental à travers la France » Rencontres Internationales de la photographie d'Arles, Abbaye de Montmajour.
- 2010 « Animaux & Cie » Galerie Twenty-One, Paris
- 2009 « Animaux & Cie » Musée de la photographie André Villers, Mougins

PAINTINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

- 2009 « I love crisis » Galerie Alexandre Cadain, Paris
- 2005 « Photoiles » Galerie Teissèdre, Paris
- 2004 Paintings, Galerie Teissèdre, Paris

DRAWINGS, PAINTINGS, COLLAGES

- 2003 « One Shot » Le Garage, Paris
- 2002 « Tête à Tête » La Manufacture des Œillets, Ivry S/Seine
- 1997 « Solo » 38, rue Sedaine, Paris
- 1996 « Tête à Tête » Eric Zajdermann, Paris
- 1994/95 « À Table » Saint-James (J.M. Amat), Bouliac
- 1993 Sculptures in driftwood, Espace Rochechouart, Paris
- 1990 Rue des Italiens, Le Monde, Paris
- 1984 « Coco » homage to Robert Doisneau, Galerie Attitude, Paris

GROUP SHOWS

DRAWINGS, PAINTINGS, COLLAGES

- 2010 Galerie Alexandre Cadain, Paris
- 2005 Affordable Art Fair, (Galleria del Leone, Venezia), Londres

BOOKS

PHOTOGRAPHY

- 2015 « Paris/Paradis » photographic journal, texts by Antoine de Caunes, Cécile Guilbert and Nicolas Guilbert, Editions Flammarion, (to be published)
- 2011 « Animonuments, voyage sentimental à travers la France » (text by Cécile Guilbert), Editions des Cendres / Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature / Centre des monuments nationaux
- 2010 « Animaux & Cie » (text by Cécile Guilbert), Editions Grasset
- 2005 « Singuliers » (Alix Briatoff and Richard Caillat), 35 portraits de personnalités, Editions Denoël

DRAWINGS

- 2001 « Tête à Tête » (texts by Alain Jouffroy and Suzanne Urier), éditions de La Manufacture des Œillets
- 1998 « Parlez-nous de lui. Bibendum vu par... » David Lodge, Agnès B, Terence Conran, Ben, etc., Editions Textuel
- 1993 « Celui qui parlait presque » (Jean-Didier Vincent), éditions Odile Jacob
- 1990 « Rue des Italiens/Album-souvenir » (text by Bertrand Poirot-Delpech) Editions Le Monde- La Découverte
- 1982 « Des Histoires Ordinaires » (textes de Michèle Enouf), éditions Luneau Ascot
- 1980 « Alice au pays des merveilles » (Lewis Carroll), Les Presses de la Cité.

BIOGRAPHY OF MARIE CHRISTOPHE

Marie Christophe was born in Strasbourg, 44 years ago. She studied in Paris at the ESAG, the Met de Pennighem and at the ATEP.

After her studies, she carried out an apprenticeship with Lucio Fanti, a painter and stage designer, for the sets of *La Traviata*, in the Chatelet. Equally attracted by stylism, graphics and theatre set design, she sought her way. During the summer of 1995, she canvassed various shops and offered to design their Christmas windows. One of her first commissions, an ice floe and its penguins, for Victoire, caught the eye of Jean-Louis Dumas, director of Hermès, who asked her to carry out four large horses for the windows of Hermès in Los Angeles. That was nearly 20 years ago.

Since then she has carried out sculptures in wire and undertakes commissions for interior decoration. Her graphic silhouettes are highly appreciated by the fashion and luxury milieux.

Marie Christophe exhibited for the first time in *En Attendant les Barbares* in Paris. Her first exhibition in New York took place at *Takashlyama*. Marie Christophe lives and works in St Georges, in the Gers.

EXHIBITIONS

2015	« Tout bêtement » with the photographs of Nicolas Guilbert, FLAIR Galerie, Arles
2015	Creel and Gow, New York
2011	India Mahdavi, Paris Talc, Paris
2009	Bon marché, Galerie éphémère, Paris « Mewecycle » Colette, Paris
2006	« Femmes de lumières » Baccarat, Paris Tomorrowland, Tokyo
2005	Designer's day, Galerie Sentou, Paris Exposition animalière, Hôtel Le Faubourg, Paris
2004	« Le vestiaire de Marie Christophe », Lane Crawford, Hong Kong
2000	Yves Halard, Paris En attendant les barbares, Paris
1998	« Plus de la mode » Musée de la Mode, Paris
1996	Musée Louis Vuitton, Paris L'Éclaireur, Paris
1995	Lieux, Paris Takashimaya, New-York

STAGE DESIGNS & PRODUCTIONS

2014	Bust for the Elie Top presentation, Baccarat, Paris Illustration for a Japanese calendar
2013	Sculpture Vintage Lacoste, Paris Penguins windows, Galerie Lafayette for Roger Vivier, Paris
2012	Chandelier for the musée Guerlain, Versailles Black chandelier, Genève Designer clothes hangers for Dior
2011	Lady Dior: creation of a Dior handbag in nickel metal, Paris Wall decoration for the Baby Dior boutique, Beirut Window « Buccle mania » Roger Vivier, Paris, New York, Londres, Miami, Tokyo, Osaka, Milan, Hong Kong.
2010	« Miss' viv » Window for Roger Vivier, Londres, New York, Paris, Tokyo, Milan Decoration for the opening of the hotel La belle Juliette, Paris
2009	Decoration Tomorrowland, Tokyo
2008	Installation in the Printemps de l'enfant, Paris Pierre Berger sales/ L'Éclaireur, Paris
2007	Decoration Dior enfants, Paris
2006	Sculptures for Roger Vivier, Paris
2003	Decoration for the french Embassy, Chicago Creation of panthers, Cartier, Tokyo
2002	Decoration for the Théâtre Marigny, Hermès, Paris
2001	Decoration for Marshall's Field, Chicago
1999	Decoration for the 'Hermès ball, Rome
1997	Equestrian statue Hermès, Los Angeles
1996	Whistels, Londres

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The dog in the Château d'Azay le Rideau, 2010

54 x 80 cm

© Nicolas Guilbert

The Cage, Manosque, 2003

37 x 55 cm

© Nicolas Guilbert

Prix d'Amérique.

Vincennes race course, 2008

54 x 80 cm

© Nicolas Guilbert

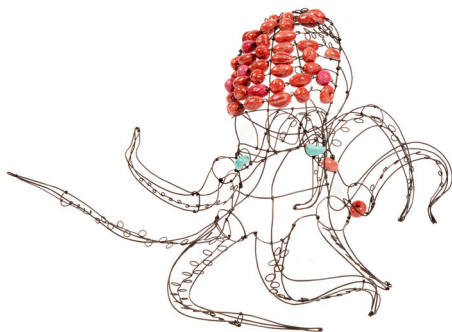
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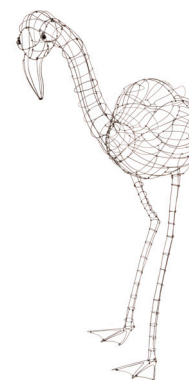
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Sculpture by Marie Christophe, 2015
Annealed wire, Vallauris ceramic, turquoises
30 x 80 x 60 cm
© Marie Christophe

Sculpture by Marie Christophe, 2015
Annealed wire, crystal pearls
20 x 8 cm
© Marie Christophe

Sculpture by Marie Christophe, 2015
Annealed wire
110 x 100 x 25 cm
© Marie Christophe

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THE GALLERY

FLAIR Galerie is one of those transversal places that simultaneously offer artist's exhibitions, collections of rare contemporary art objects and others, specifically carried out for the gallery itself. Thanks to this eclecticism, art is shown in a playful environment, thus reflecting the tastes and personality of Isabelle Wisniak, the gallery's creator.

FLAIR Galerie is also unusual since it is devoted to animals. Wild and domestic animals, sublime animals, legendary animals, animals on their way to extinction, beloved animals, necessary animals, buried animals... It is a unique imaginary bestiary that FLAIR Galerie reveals: a world of sensitivity, of humor, of creativity, and, of course, of art.

A genuinely contemporary «curiosity cabinet», situated in the very historical heart of the city of Arles, FLAIR Galerie will open on April 3, 2015.

FLAIR Galerie is a member of Arles Contemporain network 

After studying piano at l'Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, **Isabelle Wisniak** started her career in Paris in the magazine Egoïste. She later became a photographers' agent, press agent for the Fnac photo Galleries, for temporary exhibitions of the Conciergerie, for several art galleries, and finally in charge of communication for "a-part", International contemporary art Festival in les Alpilles.

Opening hours: from Wednesday to Saturday from 3PM to 7PM, and by appointment

11 rue de la Calade ■ 13200 Arles ■ 33 (0)9 80 59 01 06 ■ 33 (0)6 20 75 13 58 ■ contact@flairgalerie.com www.flairgalerie.com

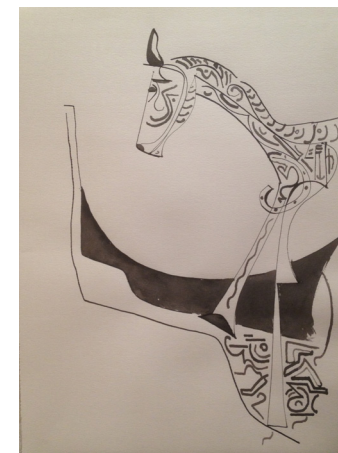
FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

From September 5 to November 28, 2015

Paintings and drawings by
Baltasar Durrbach



Baltasar Durrbach



Baltasar Durrbach

From December 5, 2015 to January 16, 2016

Illustrations by Jenifer Corker
Sculptures by Holy Smoke



Jenifer Corker



Holy Smoke