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JULIETTE DUMAS ANGELS

April 5 – 29, 2018

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Installation view, Juliette Dumas Angels, on the right wall, Whale Fluke (Le Grand Bleu), 2018, clay and gouach on paper mounted on canvas, 60 x 144 inches.

Dumas subscribes to the terms of The “Rio Negro Manifesto” created in 1978 by the French art critic Pierre Restany who drafted a manifesto along with two artists, the Brazilian (born in Poland) Frans Krajcberg, and the Yugoslav based in Brazil Sepp Baendereck.

In 1978, the three men traveled along the Rio Negro River, an affluent of the Amazon River that runs through sections of Venezuela, Colombia and Brazil, along the Amazon ecosystem. That extraordinary expedition triggered a profound stream of consciousness in the three men on the urgency of defending the Amazon and combining ethics with esthetics in art. That deep feeling gave birth to a rallying call in defense of art that is “naturalistic, essentialist and fundamental,” as opposed to the “realism” and “chaos” of contemporary art. After the expedition and on behalf of the group, Restany wrote the “Manifeste du Naturalisme or “Manifeste du Rio Negro”, cosigned by the other 2 artists.

The “Manifesto” yearns for a return from thinking and perception to a condition of “original nature” that defines naturalism as a discipline of perceptive and planetary consciousness, a return to the “occult meaning of things,” all in the service of the imagination and sensitivity. The group’s point of departure was a concept of art opposed to the “tyranny of the object” and to “highly materialistic” ambitions. Instead, it favored the deconstruction of the art object and a concern for human destiny, beyond the ecological perspectives of that period.

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Dumas explores the formal properties and inherent meaning of forms of Nature. Drawing on historical precedents such as paleolithic paintings and Cézanne’s studies of the *Montagne Sainte Victoire*, her paintings are a study of the language of Nature, an attempt to understand an experience other than human.

Dumas subscribes to the terms of the Rio Negro Manifesto:
“Integral Naturalism seeks to better understand the mysteries of Nature.(...) To practice this availability in relation to the natural given is to admit the modesty of human perception and its limits, in relation to a whole which is an end in itself.(...) Integral Naturalism is not only a militant attitude but also a spur for thought. (...) (It) calls for “the expression of a planetary consciousness”. (Restany and Krajcberg, 1978, 2013).

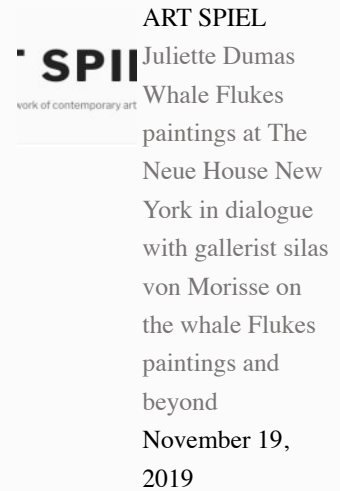
The paintings in the exhibition portray a species that was present on Earth 30 million years before us. They travel 16,000 miles every year, continuously swimming with half of their brain asleep while the other half is awake, all the while making sonic maps of the ocean floor. The generic name *Megaptera* (from the Greek *mega*-/μεγα- “giant” and *ptera*/πτερα “wing”), refers to their large front flippers. Each individual has specific scars and markings on their fluke (tail) resulting from attacks by predators, fishing gear entanglements, boat collisions, and the continuous thrashing through water.

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For this series, Dumas prepares her surfaces with clay on paper mounted on canvas, allowing her to scratch into the layers, drawing by subtraction into the fresh "skin" of the painting. She then runs water over it, letting the process of erosion edit by destroying some of the work.

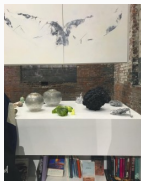
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Artists



Juliette Dumas

News



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CLOSING CONCERT EVENT JULIETTE DUMAS ANGELS AMI YAMASAKI ENGAGES WITH JULIETTE DUMAS ANGELS SUNDAY APRIL 29, 5 PM

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26 April 2018

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JULIETTE DUMAS in "Les Silences de la Fumee" after an original work by Noel Dolla, curated by Gustav Geir Bollason and David Zehla VerksmidJan A Hjalteyri, Iceland
July 8, 2017

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JULIETTE DUMAS in **UNSEEN HAND** at The Knockdown Center, curated by Nikita Vishnevskiy
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Whale Paintings Evoke the Giant Mammals' Suffering and Scarring by Peter Malone
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Juliette Dumas. Angels
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JULIETTE DUMAS in group show **INCANTATIONS: THE MODERN CAVE** **THE MODERN CHIMNEY** curated by Clara Darrason & Jennifer Houdrouge
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