

# GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA

PARIS - BRUXELLES

Laure Prouvost

*Nest In You*

November 15 - January 4, 2025

91, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Paris 8<sup>e</sup>



Projection of *The Nest* within *Breeding Bird*, 2022  
Courtesy of the artist and the Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris/Brussels

Galerie Nathalie Obadia is proud to present its fourth solo exhibition devoted to the work of Laure Prouvost, which at the same time marks over ten years of collaboration with the artist. Laure Prouvost was born in 1978 in Croix in northern France and went on to study at Central Saint Martins and Goldsmiths College in London. In 2013, she was the first French artist to be awarded the prestigious Turner Prize and has since developed a powerfully multifaceted body of work that has led to wide recognition on the international stage, most notably in 2019, when she invested the French Pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale with her *Deep See Blue Surrounding You / Vois Ce Bleu Profond Te Fondre*, enjoying huge public and critical acclaim.

*Nest In You* highlights the artist's ability to create emotive environments, employing an extremely diverse range of visual forms: a variety of different species of birds in blown Murano glass perch alongside tree branches combined with plaster, plastic, mirrors and paint. A nest in the form of a bird (*Breeding Bird*, 2022), made from a tapestry produced in Flanders, invites visitors inside to view the video *The Nest*. Previously shown between 2022 and 2024 at the Nasjonalmuseet in Oslo, Norway, the Moody Arts Center in Houston, USA and at the DePont Museum in Tilburg, Netherlands, this will be the first time the video has been projected in a gallery. *Nest In You* invites viewers to take refuge inside a cosy nest, indulging in a moment of respite under a protective mother's wing. Within this comforting embrace, the weight of the world is lifted from their shoulders as their bodies become as light as a bird.

Laure Prouvost has designed *in situ* decors and landscapes that perfectly compliment the architecture of the gallery: installations, found and misappropriated objects, sculptures, tapestries, ceramics, glass metal and video projections compose these environments that invite visitors, in both mind and body, to embark on a multi-sensorial voyage blending stories both from real life and from dreams. *Nest In You* feels like an invitation to take to the open seas, gently rocked by Laure Prouvost's narrating voice.

At a time in our present-day societies when the boundaries between the real and the virtual are becoming more and more indistinct – revealing their implicit fragility, based on individualism and physical detachment – this exhibition offers a moment's break, away from the world as we know it into one that has its own temporality. It invites new reflection on the links which unite living beings with their environment. The role of the individual, her or his physical movement and interaction with elements from a nature that is at once real, credible or utopian create new narratives. Beyond the clearly visible playfulness and impertinence, Laure Prouvost's oeuvre gets to grips with contemporary concerns such as feminism, global warming and migration in the third millennium. In her exhibitions in Venice and Oslo, birds and fish served to symbolise borderless travel – *No More Front Tears*, as the artist puts it herself.

In this *tentacular* universe where “nothing is connected to everything; everything is connected to something<sup>1</sup>” humour and poetry extend into language. The artist handles words with brio, playing with the titles of her works, even that of the exhibition, before reinjecting them into her narratives. What might be considered linguistic awkwardness plays an active role in Laure Prouvost’s emotive universe, stimulating the visitor’s imagination.

Where does the installation begin and where does it end? While the nine works of the *Mirror Paintings* series (2024) serve to diffract the space - inviting the flora and fauna beyond its walls – the images in *The Nest* that accompany a children’s choir from Molenbeek seem gradually to emerge from the screen and take over the gallery. Laure Prouvost creates surprising hybrids, in which otherness engenders a new blossoming. Her images and words seem to both manipulate and reawaken the intimate memories of the visitors, who can choose to wander around or snuggle up to the maternal bosom of *Nest In You*.

*“You know, when Grandma comes back from flying, and the plane Granddaddy says he is driving, when she lands, she jumps and gets a little bicycle. They go fast, cycling through the countryside, cycling fast, and slowly, birds are following her. First one, and two, and three, even four, five, six, and twenty, then a hundred, and maybe four hundred birds follow. (...)*

*This is the nesting place. (...) She wants to take you higher, open the ceiling, and levitate with you (...) She wants to tell you that just behind this world, all your favorite grandmothers are waiting for you. (...) We migrate together (...) To get her together.”<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Donna Haraway, “Tentacular Thinking: Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Chthulucene” from Donna J. Haraway, *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*, 2016, Duke University Press, Durham, North Carolina, USA.

<sup>2</sup> From *The Nest*, HD video, color, sound, 12:16 min, 2022.

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**Born in 1978 in Croix-Lille, Laure Prouvost lives and works between Brussels, Belgium, and London, United Kingdom.**

Graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Central Saint Martins (London, 2002) and a Master of Fine Arts from Goldsmiths College (London, 2010), Laure Prouvost is one of the most well-known artists on the contemporary international art scene. Laure Prouvost represented France at the 58<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition at the Venice Biennial in 2019.

In 2020, Laure Prouvost has been invited to participate to the Sydney Biennial NIRIN curated by Brook Andrew. Some traveling exhibitions of the French Pavilion of the 58<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition at the Venice Biennial (2019) were planned to les Abattoirs (Toulouse, France) and at the LAM Villeneuve d’Ascq (Lille, France). In 2024, *Nest In You* at the Galerie Nathalie Obadia in Paris (France) marks the first gallery exhibition of this large-scale installation, following successive shows between 2022 and 2024 at the Nasjonalmuseet in Oslo (Norway), the Moody Arts Center in Houston (United States) and the DePont Museum in Tilburg (Netherlands). The *Oma-je* exhibition is currently on show at the Phi Foundation in Montreal (Canada), and in 2025 Laure Prouvost will have a solo exhibition at the MUCEM (Musée des Civilisations de l’Europe et de la Méditerranée), the Chapelle de la Vieille Charité, and the [mac] Musée d’art contemporain de la Ville de Marseille (France).

She has had recent significant solo exhibitions in prestigious institutions, including at the Kunsthall Charlottenborg with *Our elastic arm hold in tight through the clouds* (Denmark, 2021), at the Kunsthalle Lissabon with *Melting into One Another Ho Hot Chaud it Heating Dip* (Portugal, 2020), at the MUHKA with *AM-BIG-YOU-US LEGSICON* (Belgium, 2019), at the Palais de Tokyo with *RING SING AND DRING FOR TRESPASSING* (France, 2018), at the Bass Museum with *They are Waiting for You* (USA, 2018), the Witte de With with the wet wet wanderer (Rotterdam, 2017), at the Consortium with *DROPPED HERE AND THEN, TO LIVE, LEAVE IT ALL BEHIND* (Dijon, 2016), at the MMK Frankfurt am Main with *ALL BEHIND, WE’LL GO DEEPER, DEEP DOWN AND SHE WILL SAY* (Frankfurt, 2016), at the Kunsthall Luzern with *AND SHE WILL SAY: HI HER, AILLEURS, TO HIGHER GROUNDS...* (Luzern, 2016), at the Red Brick Art Museum with *Into All That Is Here* (Beijing, 2016), at the FLAX Foundation Fahrenheit with *A Way To Leak, Lick, Leek* (Los Angeles, 2016), at the Musée d’Art Contemporain de Rochechouart with *We Will Go Far* (Rochechouart, 2015), at Haus der Kunst Munich with *We Would Be floating away from the dirty past* (Munich, 2015), at the New Museum with *For Forgetting* (New York, 2014), at the Whitechapel Gallery (London, 2013), at Tate Britain with Schwitters in Britain (London, 2013), at the Institute for Contemporary Art with *The Wanderer* (London, 2013), and at the Tate Britain with *Art Now Lightbox Laure Prouvost: It, heat, hit* (London 2010).

Laure Prouvost was awarded the Turner Prize in 2013, the Max Mara Prize for Women in 2011, the Prize Winner of the 56<sup>th</sup>, 57<sup>th</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> Oberhausen Short Film Festival in 2010 and 2011 as well as the EAST International Award in 2009. In 2016, she was distinguished as Knight of the Ordre National du Mérite, and in 2019 she was distinguished as Officer of l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Prestigious public and private collections house the works of Laure Prouvost, such as the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (Washington, USA), the Red Brick Art Museum (Beijing, China), the Kunsthall Luzern (Luzern, Switzerland), the Maramotti Collection (Reggio Emilia, Italy), the Morra Greco Foundation (Naples, Italy), the Videoin sight Collection (Turin, Italy), la Sandretto Collection (Turin, Italy), The Arts Council (London, United Kingdom), The Withworth Collection (Manchester, United Kingdom), The Contemporary Art Society (London, United Kingdom), The Saatchi Collection (London, United Kingdom), The Zabłudowicz Collection (London, United Kingdom), The Cranford Collection (London, United Kingdom), the MAC/VAL (Vitry sur Seine, France), the Kadist Foundation (Paris, France), the Fond National d’Art Contemporain (FNAC, Paris, France), the FRAC Bourgogne (Dijon, France), the FRAC Champagne Ardennes (France), the Musée départemental d’art contemporain de Rochechouart (Rochechouart, France) the Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (Monaco).

Laure Prouvost has been represented by la Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris/Brussels, since 2014.

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Paris Saint-Honoré

**Laure Prouvost**

*Nest In You*

November 15 - January 4, 2025

**Viswanadhan**

January 17 - March 2025

Paris Cloître Saint-Merri

**Antoine Renard**

*Demons*

November 8 - January 25, 2025

Paris Cloître Saint-Merri - Espace II

**Guillaume Leblon**

January 11 - March 2025

Brussels

**Joris Van de Moortel**

*L’apocalypse excite les nerfs de la nef*

October 24 - January 11, 2025

**Group photography show**

January 16 - February 22, 2025

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Pour suivre toutes les actualités de la Galerie Nathalie Obadia :  
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