

GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA

PARIS - BRUXELLES

Guillaume Leblon

January 11 - February 28, 2025

Espace II
3, rue du Cloître Saint-Merri, Paris 4^e

AH BON!

Galerie Nathalie Obadia is pleased to present *AH BON!*, the new installation by Guillaume Leblon at its Parisian gallery space. Five new works by the artist continue his exploration of plaster, a material he masters with great finesse. Some of his earlier plaster works were recently featured in the exhibition *Parade* at the Palais de Tokyo until 2023. In this new series, Guillaume Leblon introduces marine and vegetal forms, creating playful and unexpected encounters.

Although Guillaume Leblon has been living and working in New York for several years, it is in the South of France, in Antibes, where he creates his wall sculptures. The Mediterranean, with its unique history, fauna, and flora, fuels the artist's inspiration. It is here, within this natural and historical setting, that his reflections on fossilization take shape. The incorporation of natural elements, such as fish or plant imprints, attests to this influence. These imprints also evoke other references, such as *Fossil Lake* in the United States, famous for its fossilized plates, where marine creatures are preserved in a state of near perfection. This market, where natural history and art history intersect, resonates in Guillaume Leblon's work: the issue of preservation and collection overlaps with that of artistic creation.

To create his sculptures, the artist works with fresh plaster. By manipulating it as a malleable paste, he embeds various collected objects, creating surprising dynamics between the rigidity of the plaster and the fluidity of organic forms. Frozen in the material, their movements are suspended forever. At the same time, the sounds of the chosen titles – interjections such as *AH BON!*, *CHUT!*, *HÉ HÉ!*, *POUHI!*, *OUF!* – resonate in the space, adding a rhythmic dimension that contrasts with the stillness of the elements.

For the very first time in this series, Guillaume Leblon has chosen to add touches of vibrant oil pastels to certain works. These colorful interventions enhance the dynamic between the shapes and emphasize the organic curves. Sheets of paper have also been incorporated, sometimes covering specific imprints. These additions allow the artist to explore textures, thus enriching the sculptural dimension of his works.

In this way, the artist adopts a sculptural approach that transforms the influences evoked into innovative sculptures, where materials, forms, textures, and colors engage in a subtle dialogue.

Born in Lille (France) in 1971, Guillaume Leblon lives and works in New York (USA).

Guillaume Leblon studied at Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Lyon (France) from which he was graduated in 1997. He then continued with 2 residences : at the ART 3 Residency in Sabadell, Barcelona and at the Rijksakademie, Amsterdam.

The artist has been the subject of notable solo exhibitions at prestigious institutions, including *Parade* at the Palais de Tokyo (Paris, France) in 2022-2023. |; *There is a man, and more*, S.M.A.K (Gand, Belgium) in 2018; *Le poids que la main supporte*, Panorama, Friche Belle de Mai (Marseille, France) in 2015; *A dos de cheval avec le peintre*, IAC Villeurbanne (Villeurbanne, France) in 2014; *Under my shoe*, Mass Moca (North Adams, USA) in 2013; *Une appropriation de la nature*, Musée de Sérignan, (Sérignan, France) in 2012; *Black Apple falls*, Fondation Paul Ricard (Paris, France) in 2011; *Site of confluence*, MUDAM (Luxembourg) in 2009 and in 2004, *AZIMUT* at FRAC Bourgogne (Dijon, France).

Guillaume Leblon's work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions, such as *Des Mondes Construits*, MNAM at the Centre Pompidou-Metz (Metz, France) in 2020; *The House Where You Live Forever* at Garage Rotterdam (Rotterdam, Netherlands) in 2019; *Or: Un voyage dans l'histoire de l'art au fil d'or* at the MUCEM (Marseille, France) and at the Front International Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art (Cleveland, USA) in 2018; *Singin' Stones* at Palais de Tokyo hors les murs at the DuSable Museum of African American History (Chicago, USA) in 2017; *Accrochage, a selection of the Pinault Collection* at Punta della Dogana (Venice, Italy), *Collections: Élémentaires* at the Abattoirs (Toulouse, France), and *Une Histoire (art archi design/ des années 80 à nos jours)* at the Centre Pompidou (Paris, France) in 2016; *Tout le monde* at the Centre d'art contemporain d'Ivry - le Crédac (Ivry-sur-Seine, France) and *L'usage des formes, artisans d'art et artistes* at Palais de Tokyo (Paris, France) in 2015; *De leur temps (4)*, 2010/2013, *Regards croisés de 100 collectionneurs sur la jeune création* at the Centre d'art Le Hangar à Bananes (Nantes, France) in 2014; *Une préface* at Le Plateau, FRAC Île-de-France, and *Collection Amplifiée, une proposition d'Arnaud Maguet* at the Musée de Rochechouart in 2013; and *Pour un art pauvre* at Carré d'art in Nîmes as well as during the Biennale de Rennes in 2012.

Guillaume Leblon's works have joined prestigious collections around the world: Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (Paris, France), Centre Pompidou (Paris, France), Carré d'Art (Nîmes, France), Musée d'Art Contemporain de Sérignan (France), IAC Villeurbanne (France), Musée d'Art Contemporain de Rochechouart (France), Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (Monaco), S.M.A. K (Ghent, Belgium), MUDAM (Luxembourg), MAK Museum (Vienna, Austria), MCA (Chicago, United States), CGAC (Santiago de Compostela, Spain), Kadist (France, United States), as well as Regional Contemporary Art Funds in France: Les Abattoirs de Toulouse, FRAC Île-de-France, FRAC Bourgogne, FRAC Bretagne, and private collections: François Pinault Collection (Italy), Laurent Dumas Collection (France), Fondation d'entreprise Galeries Lafayette (Paris, France)

Paris Saint-Honoré

Viswanadhan

January 17 - March 8, 2025

Sarkis

March 22 - May 2025

Paris Cloître Saint-Merri

Roger-Edgar Gillet
Gillet et compagnie

February 8 - April 26, 2025

Paris Cloître Saint-Merri - Espace II

Guillaume Leblon

AH BON!

January 11 - February 28, 2025

Brussels

Collective photography exhibition

La représentation et son double
January 16 - March 1, 2025

Victoria Palacios

March 21 - May 17, 2025

For any further information, please contact : Eva Ben Dhiab
evab@nathalieobadia.com / + 33 (0) 1 53 01 99 76

To stay informed about Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Instagram (@galerieobadia), Facebook (@GalerieNathalieObadia), Twitter (@GalerieObadia) #galerieobadia