



May 15, 2019

Belvedere 21

Arsenalstrasse 1
1030 Vienna

Opening hours:

Wed to Sun 11 a.m. to 6
p.m.

Wed and Fri to 9 p.m.
(also on public holidays)

Press downloads:

belvedere21.at/presse21

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Installation View *Caroline Achaintre. Permanent Wave*
Photo: kunst-dokumentation.com, Manuel Carreon Lopez; © Belvedere, Vienna

CAROLINE ACHAINTRE PERMANENT WAVE

May 17 to September 15, 2019

This is the first time that Caroline Achaintre is presenting her work in a solo show in Austria. Her site-specific exhibition at the Belvedere 21 provides an insight into the wide-ranging oeuvre of the Franco-German artist who uses traditional techniques like tapestry, watercolor, and ceramic in an unconventional way.

"Caroline Achaintre is an artist who looks to the past to redesign the future. Her joy in the assurance provided by traditions does not tie her down, but rather drives her enthusiasm for everything that is and that might come," according to the curator and CEO of the Belvedere Stella Rollig.

The artist works conceptually at the intersection of abstraction and objectivity. She creates characters, faces, masks, fantastical creatures and forms between object and subject. Her abstract pieces are still creatures, at least the skins of creatures—objects with soul, between human and animal. Constants in Achaintre's seemingly animate oeuvre are the masquerade, the archaic, the dark, and the mysterious—bordering on the uncanny. However, the German word "unheimlich" (English: "uncanny") also includes the words "heimlich" ("mysterious") and "Heim" ("home"). For this reason, Achaintre uses materials like wool that come from a domestic context.

At the Belvedere 21 Caroline Achaintre is mainly showing new work—a series of ceramics and large-format tapestries that she lovingly calls "a new gang." One piece with tufted mohair is named *Martian Girl* or more accurately *Mart'an G'rl*—the vowels have been replaced with apostrophes as a phonetic rendering of informal speech. She is inspired by a Valdivian sculpture, as well as by the film *Mars Attacks!*. The felted mohair is reminiscent of a bad permanent wave and thus lends the exhibition its title. The exhibition architecture reacts to the low ceilings on the lower ground floor of the museum and constitutes a kind of spaceship for Achaintre's creatures, a temporary habitat on the move.

Having trained as a blacksmith and studied at the University of Art and Design in Halle an der Saale, at Chelsea College of Art and Design, and at Goldsmiths, University of London, Caroline Achaintre's early work was in metal and watercolor, but this has largely been superseded by installations—first in Styrofoam, later in wool and ceramic. Now that textiles and ceramics have been emancipated from attributions to the domestic in art since the 1960s/1970s, the artist (born in 1969) can unreservedly use all the techniques and materials that are suited to her subjects and explorations of form.

What interests Caroline Achaintre about the media of wool, ceramic, and watercolor are their materiality, surface effect, and intuitive work process. The production process is very physical and energetic—and as such the pieces convey a certain aura and intensity. With the technique of tufting, pictures with a relief character emerge from individual threads of wool that are shot through the back of a canvas.

Achaintre's language of form and iconography are rich and diverse. Stylistically her work contains references to German Expressionism, to Primitivism, to the Arts & Crafts movement, and to Fauvism. Thematically and formally, the artist explores Central European carnival and Mardi Gras customs. Influences from horror, the fetish, heavy metal, and science fiction find their way into her creative work, as does her examination of how ethnological collections are presented in museums. As such she alludes among other things to the legacy of colonialism, to aspects of psychoanalysis, and to niche aspects of youth culture.

BIOGRAPHY CAROLINE ACHAINTRE

Born in Toulouse, FR in 1969

Lives and works in London, UK

Education

- 2001–2003 Postgraduate studies, Fine Art, Goldsmiths College, London, UK
- 1998–2000 Undergraduate studies, Fine Art, Chelsea College of Art & Design, London, UK
- 1996–1998 Undergraduate studies, Fine Art, Kunsthochschule in Halle / Saale, DE
- 1991–1996 Apprenticeship and work as blacksmith artist, Zirndorf and Berlin, DE

Solo Exhibitions

- 2018 Dissolver, Dortmunder Kunstverein, Dortmund, DE
Wimper, Touchstones Rochdale, Rochdale, UK
Duo Infernal, Art: Concept, Paris, FR
Fantômas, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea, UK, & BE-PART, Waregem, BE2017
Escaner: Caroline Achaintre, Museo de Arte Precolombino Casa del Alabado, Quito, EC
Caroline Achaintre, FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims, FR
Caroline Achaintre A.D.O., Farbvision, Berlin, DE
- 2016 Caroline Achaintre, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK
Boo, c-o-m-p-o-s-i-t-e, Brussels, BE
Limbo, Arcade, London, UK
- 2015 Caroline Achaintre, Tate Britain, London, UK
- 2014 Present/Future, Illy Prize, Castello di Rivoli, Turin, IT
Mooner, Arcade, London, UK
- 2013 Camp Coo, UH Galleries, Hertfordshire, UK
- 2012 Trip-Dip, Arcade, London, UK
- 2010 Couleur Locale, Arcade, London, UK
- 2008 Novelty, Mirko Mayer Galerie, Cologne, DE
Visor Visitor, Fake Estate, New York, US
- 2007 Six Strings, Blow de la Barra, London, UK
- 2006 Caroline Achaintre, Mirko Mayer Galerie, Cologne, DE
- 2005 DEEDIE, The Showroom, London, UK
- 2004 Caroline Achaintre, Lawrence O'Hana Gallery, London, UK
Caroline Achaintre, Mirko Mayer Galerie, Cologne, DE
QUARTERS, Whitechapel Project Space, London, UK
- 2002 Billboard, Mafuji Gallery, London, UK
- 2001 Kampagne, Kunstverein Kohlenhof Nuremberg, DE

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2018
 Pissing in the River. Again!, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin, DE
 Another Banana Day for the Perfect Fish, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR
 DRAF x MOSTYN: She sees the shadows, MOSTYN, Llandudno, Wales, UK
 BALTIC Triennial, curated by Vincent Honoré, LT
 A Forest, Arcade, London, UK
 Nomadic Murals: Contemporary Tapestries and Carpets, BOCA Museum, Miami, US
 TERRA – A contemporary history of clay, Hotel Contemporary, London, UK
- 2017
 En Crue, Fondation Albert Gleizes, Lyon, FR
 Morphogenesis, Galeria Francisco Fino, Lisbon, PT
 Ungestalt, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, CH
 Entangled: threads and making, Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK
 Pre-Capital, La Panacée, Montpellier, FR
- 2016
 XXXmASS, Kate Werble Gallery, New York, US
 A conversation about ceramics, Galleria Monica de Cardenas, Milan, IT
 Making & Unmaking, Camden Arts Centre, London, UK
- 2015
 Folleree & Folleroo, Arcade, London, UK
 The British Art Show 8, Touring exhibition, UK
- 2014
 Deep One Perfect Morning, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, IE
 Vernacular Alchemists, Centre d'art contemporain Passerelle, Brest, FR
 Decorum, The Power Station of Art, Shanghai, CN
 More Material, Salon 94, New York, US
 Accordion, Laura Bartlett Gallery, London, UK
- 2013
 A-Tri-Lick, Peer, London, UK
 Decorum, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, FR
 The Hecklers, The New Art Gallery Walsall, Walsall, UK
 Six Possibilities for a Sculpture, La Loge, Brussels, BE
 Are You Alright? New Art From Britain, MOCCA, Toronto, CA
- 2012
 La demeure joyeuse, Galerie Francesca Pia, Zurich, CH
 The London Open, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
 Whitewashing the Moon, Project Arts Centre, Dublin, IE
 Boulevard et Pécuchet's Compendious Quest for Beauty, The David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK
 Caroline Achaintre, Sara Barker, Alice Channer, Eastside Projects, Birmingham, UK
 Mocha Non-Truth, Cul De Sac Gallery, London, UK
 James Tower and Contemporary Ceramic Art, Gimpel Fils, London, UK
 Laying down and kissing the love in the mist, Kendall Koppe Gallery, Glasgow, UK
- 2011
 Slipped, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge, UK
 Imagine Being Here Now, The 6th Momentum Biennial, Moss, NO
 Adventures in a Miniature Landscape, Log, Bergamo, IT
- 2010
 Collision, Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, US
 Newspeak: British Art Now, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
 Das vertraute Unvertraute, Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart, DE

- 2009 Free Radicals, Arcade, London, UK
Cabinet Afrique, Cell Project Space, London, UK
- 2008 Blue Balls, APF LAB, New York, US
Soft Spot, 0047, Oslo, NO
- 2007 Behemoth, Danielle Arnaud Gallery, London, UK
Amongst the Ashes and Millionaires, Ancient & Modern, London, UK
- 2006 Until it makes Sense, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris, FR, and Seventeen, London, UK
Good Vibrations, Palazzo delle Papesse, Siena, IT
If it didn't exist you'd have to invent it: a partial Showroom history, The Showroom, London, UK
- 2005 Acid Rain, Glassbox / Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, FR
Brief Encounter, The Reykjavík Academy, Reykjavík, IS
Transfer, m-projects, Cologne, DE

Residencies

- 2017 Fondation Albert Gleizes, Sablons, FR
- 2015 AIT, Tokyo, JP
- 2014 Camden Arts Centre, London, UK

Scholarships and Awards

- 2013 Present/Future, Illy Prize, Artissima, Turin, IT
- 2007 British Council, Travel Grant for New York, US
- 2006 Arts Council, Grant for Individual Artists
British Council, Travel Grant for Reykjavík, IS
- 2004 Arts Council, Grant for Individual Artists
Elephants Trust, Grant for Individual Artists
- 2003 British Council, Travel Grant for Tirana, AL
- 1998 DAAD German Exchange Service scholarship to take up postgraduate studies in London
kunstpreis 98, award and exhibition, Kreissparkasse Koethen, DE

Public Collections

- FRAC Aquitaine, Bordeaux, FR
- FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims, FR
- Arts Council Collection, London, UK
- David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK
- Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, FR
- Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- Tate Collection, London, UK
- University of Hertfordshire Galleries, Hatfield, UK
- Southampton City Art Gallery & Museum, Southampton, UK

CATALOGUE



Caroline Achaintre. Permanent Wave

Editor: Stella Rollig

Authors: Charlotte Cosson & Emmanuelle Luciani, Oriane Durand, Stella Rollig

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SUPPORTING PROGRAM

ARTIST TALK

Caroline Achaintre. Permanent Wave

With Caroline Achaintre and Johanna Hofer

Friday, Mai 17, 2019 | 5 p.m.

In Caroline Achaintre's oeuvre traditional techniques like tapestry, ceramic, and watercolor are used unconventionally. The artist will speak with Johanna Hofer (Curatorial Assistant) about her seemingly animate work, the exhibition concept, and her artistic career.

€4 (plus admission) / registration required

CURATOR-GUIDED TOUR

Caroline Achaintre. Permanent Wave

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 | 6 p.m.

Caroline Achaintre's work is characterized by her spontaneous and intuitive use of wool, ceramic, and watercolor. Johanna Hofer (Curatorial Assistant) will speak about the Franco-German artist's creative practice and the site-specific exhibition at the Belvedere 21.

€4 (plus admission) / registration required

EXHIBITION TOURS

Caroline Achaintre. Permanent Wave

Wednesday, July 17 and August 28, 2019 | 6 p.m.

This guided tour of the exhibition focuses on influences and art historical references, as well as the unconventional use of materials and techniques, in Caroline Achaintre's oeuvre.

€4 (plus admission) / registration required

BABY ON BOARD AT THE MUSEUM

Caroline Achaintre

Thread, Form, and Color

Wednesday, September 4, 2019 | 2:30 p.m.

For parents with babies aged 12 months and under

Parent-baby group with art included! In a relaxed atmosphere participants will turn their attention to the dark, mysterious, and archaic in the work of the Franco-German artist Caroline Achaintre. Nursing opportunities, bottle warmer, and changing table available. Baby carrier recommended, strollers welcome.

€4 (plus admission) / registration required

SUMMER VACATION ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Wild Woolen Worlds

For children aged 6 to 13 years

Wednesday, July 17 and Thursday, July 18, 2019

Wednesday, July 24 and Thursday, July 25, 2019

Wednesday, Aug 7 and Thursday, Aug 8, 2019

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, Sept 7 and Sunday, Sept 8, 2019

3–5 p.m.

Masks, fashion, and science fiction inspire the Franco-German artist Caroline Achaintre to create giant furry wall objects. The children will follow the red thread that guides them through the exhibition. What can be created using wool as a medium? And how is the material interwoven with art history? In this workshop we will create elaborate woolen artworks.

€4.50 / registration required

CHILDREN'S ART UNIVERSITY

From Wool to Work, on Clay with Craft

Textile art and sculptural design

Thursday, July 4, 2019 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | 6 to 10 years

Thursday, July 4, 2019 | 2–6 p.m. | 10 to 14 years

Weaving, tying, knotting, braiding; kneading, impressing, rolling, forming: wool and clay are the preferred materials of the Franco-German artist Caroline Achaintre. Influenced by Mardi Gras traditions and science fiction, she creates impressive objects. The children will create elaborate woolen artworks and work in clay.

Free for registered participants, go to www.kinderunikunst.at

In cooperation with www.kinderunikunst.at

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition title	<i>CAROLINE ACHAINTRE. Permanent Wave</i>
Curator	Stella Rollig
Curatorial Assistant	Johanna Hofer
Exhibits	16
Duration	May 17 to September 15, 2019
Venue	Belvedere 21 Arsenalstrasse 1, 1030 Vienna
Opening hours	Wednesday to Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Long evenings: Wednesday and Friday to 9 p.m. Also on public holidays
Tickets	Regular €8 Belvedere 21 Annual Ticket €21 Reduced €6 Children and teenagers under 18 free
Web	belvedere21.at facebook.com/belvedere21 twitter.com/belvedere21wien instagram.com/belvedere21wien #CarolineAchaintre

The press release along with high-resolution press photographs are available for download at:
belvedere21.at/presse21