

The background of the entire poster is an abstract, marbled pattern in shades of orange, yellow, and white, resembling natural stone or a liquid effect.

FRANCISCO TROPA

The RM Enigma

13 - 30 June 2023

Cahn Kunstraum, Basel

Galerie Jocelyn Wolff

EN

The RM Enigma by Francisco Tropa

**A join project between Galerie Jocelyn Wolff and Cahn Contemporary
Curated by Luiza Texeira de Freitas and Jean-David Cahn**

We like to create a certain vertigo in our projects.

This exhibition is part of a significant series of projects involving the Galerie Jocelyn Wolff and the Cahn Gallery, with each project exploring the complex relationship between contemporary art and archaeology.

The aim of these confrontations and dialogues is to refresh our gaze, for audiences who have followed the history of art over the past few decades, the mysterious aura of archaeological objects enables striking re-readings and mises en abyme, the same is true for the enlightened archaeology enthusiast, who will see in contemporary creations objects that are difficult to apprehend, in their involuntary esotericism.

To continue the 2022 exercise, with a fascinating contribution by Katinka Bock, itself a continuation of an earlier reflection (Laura Lamiel, in collaboration with the Galerie Marcelle Alix), we asked Francisco Tropa to come and exhibit his most recent work at the Cahn Kunstraum.

Since Francisco Tropa's work emerges from the dialectical respiration between the traditional materials of sculpture (bronze, stone, etc.) and the classical devices of Western art (trompe-l'oeil, composition) on the one hand, and on the other, contributions from conceptual art or the use of techniques that blur the status of the object in the field of sculpture - the direct projection of objects, for example, transforms them into images rather than shadows - it is possible that here we reach the paroxysm in this dialogue between archaeology and contemporary art.

But it is also possible that having passed the tipping point, this confrontation reverts here to a natural simplicity, a harmonious, more literary relationship, with the emergence of new metaphors.

—Jocelyn Wolff

About Francisco Tropa

born in 1968, works and lives in Lisbon

Besides representing Portugal in the Venice Biennale (2011), Francisco Tropa also took part in the Rennes Biennial (2012), the Istanbul Biennial (2011), Manifesta (2000), the Melbourne Biennial (1999) and the São Paulo Biennial (1998). Some of his recent solo exhibitions include: *The Lung and the Heart*, Musée d'art moderne de Paris, France (2022); *Che Vuoi?*, Le Creux de l'Enfer, Thiers, France (2022); *Behind us*, MUCEM, Marseille, France (2020); *The Pyrgus from Chaves*, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal (2019); Performance *Scripta*, Centre National de la Danse, Paris, France (2018); Performance *Gigante*, Festival MOVE, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (2018); *TSAE - Trésors Submergés de l'Ancienne Égypte*, Musée Régional d'Art Contemporain Languedoc-Roussillon, Sérignan, France (2015); *TSAE - Tesouros Submersos do Antigo Egipto*, Museu de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal (2014-2015); *STAE - Submerged Treasures of Ancient Egypt*, La Verrière, Fondation d'Entreprise Hermès, Brussels, Belgium (2013).

For further information about the artist, [please find his portfolio here](#).

Galerie Jocelyn Wolff

Galerie Jocelyn Wolff

In 2003, Galerie Jocelyn Wolff opened in a very small, remote space in Belle-ville of East Paris with a solo show by Clemens von Wedemeyer. Most represented artists made their debuts with Galerie Jocelyn Wolff. In 2006, the gallery moved to a larger space in the same neighborhood, rue Julien-Lacroix. As the gallery grew, the neighborhood of Belleville developed into the most dynamic and vivid scene for emerging galleries in the city. Initially focusing on revealing emerging artists, the gallery gradually engaged in the promotion of key historical artists whose positions had been undervalued.

In 2019, the gallery open a second space in Romainville, in the new form of collaboration, Komunuma (community in Esperanto). It gathers several contemporary art galleries, a private foundation and the FRAC - Fonds d'art contemporain d'Île-de-France, all located in same large former industrial plant: it wishes to accompany the movement and metamorphosis of our megalopolis in the XXI century, called le Grand Paris. Galerie Jocelyn Wolff participates in art fairs such as Art Basel, Art Basel Miami Beach, Art Basel Hong Kong, Artissima, FIAC Paris, ArteBA Buenos Aires, ARCO Madrid, MiArt Milan.

Cahn Contemporary

Cahn Contemporary is a new gallery situated in Bagnolet (France) dedicated to the dialogue between contemporary creations and archaeological material. The gallery has until now shown exhibitions of visual arts conceived by and organized together with Paris art galleries and their respective artists.

Cahn Contemporary is an initiative of Jean-David Cahn, the founder and director of Galerie Cahn in Basel, which specializes in antiquities spanning the period from 80,000 B.C. to 400 A.D. and including flintstones, marble sculptures, bronzes, terracottas, ceramics, glass, jewelry, and coins. Galerie Cahn makes this wide variety of prehistorical and Classical antiquities available to contemporary artists. The artists are invited to work with or around this collection of ancient works, to reinterpret their existing works into new permutations or, inspired by this archaeological environment, to develop a something entirely new. The meeting of ancient artifacts and contemporary creations can trigger intuitive reactions, based purely on the formal properties of the objects. On the other hand, inspiration can stem from an erudite understanding, based on intellectual references, including approaches grounded in current political discourse. This cutting through time allows for an untangling of a linear chronological model (based on the past, present, and future) and throws into doubt the principle of historical objectivity.

A limited edition about the exhibition will be available, with texts by Jean-David Cahn, Hélène Meisel, Luiza Teixeira de Freitas and Jocelyn Wolff.

Galerie Jocelyn Wolff



Contact & Information

Cahn Kunstraum

Steinentorstrasse 13

4051 Basel

4 minutes away from Kunsthalle Basel

Opening hours :

During Art Basel

13 - 14 June: 11AM - 9PM

15 - 18 June: 11AM- 6PM

From 20 to 30 June

Tue. - Sat. 2PM - 6PM

cahncontemporary.com



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