

Pi Artworks Istanbul: Maude Maris

Antique Romance

12 November - 30 December 2016

Private view: 11 November, Friday, 18:30-20:30

Pi Artworks Istanbul is proud to host Paris-based artist Maude Maris' first solo exhibition in Turkey. The artist's work had been exhibited this year at Ville de Thonon-les-Bains (solo) and VOG Fontaine (solo); and last year at Pi Artworks London, the gallery's Contemporary Istanbul booth, and Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes.

Antique Romance consists of a considered and minimal selection of paintings and sculptures that showcase the two main sides of Maris' practice. These new semi-abstract compositions combine in unusual ways references to objects and architecture from both ancient cultures and contemporary civilizations. Recurrent within the exhibition are references to the transformed remnants of ancient civilisations: The gigantic sculptures of Mount Nemrut, Turkey, the belongings of Pharaoh Tutankhamun, and the artefacts of the Istanbul Archaeology Museum.

Maris investigates the role -as protector- and spiritual meaning of ancient sculptures depicting animalistic figures, particularly large scale ones placed on and around buildings and furnitures. Particular attention is given to how the form of these sculptures has changed over time. Her work references historical sculptures such as those depicting *Big Jerry*, *Big Horus* and *Big Io*, but all comes from cast of small contemporary toys or kitsch figures.

Maris' works described as *architecture of emotion*. She builds emotions through physical constructions; she creates passages between the objects and figures, the past and today.

To capture the three-dimensionality of her subjects, she always creates small sculptures to model her paintings on. In *Antique Romance* the artist's bigger sculptures are presented together with her paintings to form a broader installation.

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Maude Maris, b. 1980. Major exhibitions include *A claire-voix* (solo), Ville de Thonon-les-Bains, France (2016); *Votive* (solo), Saint-Ange Residency, VOG, Fontaine, France (2016); *Heaven Is A Place Where Nothing Ever Happens*, Pi Artworks London, UK (2015); *Nemeton* (solo), Musée des Beaux-arts, Rennes, France (2015); *Foyer* (solo), Isabelle Gounod Gallery, Paris, France (2014); *Table of Contents* (solo), Galerie Duchamp, Yvetot, France (2014); *Drawing Now*, Isabelle Gounod Gallery, Carrousel of Louvre Museum, Paris (2014). Major collections holding her work include Artothèque de Caen, France; Colas Fondation, France; FRAC Auvergne, France; FRAC Basse-Normandie, France; and FRAC Haute-Normandie, France.

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