

## 'U'upa a Hina

OCTOBER 7–NOVEMBER 7 2021 | OPENING OCTOBER 7, 18.00

**Sylvie Fleury**

**Gonzalo Lebrija**

**Florian & Michael Quistrebert**

**Curator: Anissa Touati**

The goddess Hina took her dugout canoe one evening and headed out to sea to admire the moon... The moon that evening was immense and illuminated the ocean with its glitter. Fascinated, she plunged into its reflection to disappear in its brightness. This is how Hina became the goddess of the moon. But lonely and forced to live isolated, the goddess decided to transform herself into a bird, a 'u'upa with shimmering plumage, in order to travel and come down to earth to visit people and share their daily lives.

*'U'upa a Hina* explores the theory of multiple worlds, their superposition and coexistence. 3 artists; Gonzalo Lebrija, Florian & Michael Quistrebert and Sylvie Fleury, 3 universes which continually divide into divergent Cosmos, different and inaccessible to each other. Each world contains a unique version of each observer experiencing a different situation at the same moment in time.

**Gonzalo Lebrija** freezes time, seeking to capture fleeting moments for our contemplation, unquantifiable yet finite moments between life and death. His paintings depict triangular overlays of thinly applied oil paint, becoming darker and more complex as each layer interacts with the other. A complex composition based upon the folds of a paper airplane, alluding to the lightness, ingenuity and ephemerality of this invention. By extension, the viewer can sense an existential philosophy in Lebrija's paintings. The artist's hypnotic works suspend the passage of time in ephemeral and mysterious moments of layers of muted semi transparent paint that form prismatic abstractions.

**Sylvie Fleury** has produced an extensive oeuvre, incorporating an array of themes from projects that focus on Zen practices and personal development to Science fiction, reimagining familiar makeup compacts on a monumental scale. Devoid of branding and meticulously rendered with soft-modeled black curves and shimmering inset panels, the pieces might resemble automotive interiors or color-field canvases. There rises a tension between makeup inviting to play and artwork forbidden to touch invoking the notion of desire, the forbidden and guilt.

For **Florian & Michael Quistrebert**, light is the central element of their painting. "With light, what is interesting is the ambivalence that shifts it from the sacred to the material, from the esoteric to the technological..." Their works play on texture colour effects, curves and scale. Recently, instead of using spray cans, they have evolved their practice to use only ink spray, which allows brighter and purer colors. "The idea was still to produce an excessive form of painting that verges on being sickening. In our last paintings, the colour shadings waver between the dusky shades of Georgia O'Keeffe and airbrushed SF landscapes."



*U'upa a Hina* are peregrinations from one universe to another, a crossing from one atoll to another, a hallucinated daydream taking the forms of abstraction either geometrical, saturated or fractured. The exhibition raises the question of multiple and parallel realities, of infinitely large and infinitely small, where an art work can take on multitudes of simultaneous forms, be here and elsewhere at the same time : a link between matter and consciousness.

**Gonzalo Lebrija** (b. 1972) uses the mediums of photography, video, sound and sculpture to capture the aesthetic experience of time. With an almost humorous nihilism, he explores the passage and futility of life, often focusing on the vertiginous possibilities of frozen moments. Lebrija's recent solo exhibitions include *Unfolded Paintings*, Travesía Cuatro, 2017; *Vía Láctea*, Palacio de las Bellas Artes, 2016; *Unfolded*, Galerie Laurent Godin, 2015 and Museo de Arte de Zapopan, 2015; *Measuring the Distance*, La Casa Encendida, 2015; the 13th Istanbul Biennale, 2013 and *Possibility of Disaster*, curated by Humberto Moro, the Center for the Arts in Monterrey, 2013. Since 2011 he has been a patron of MCA Denver. He is also the co-founder and co-director of Oficina para Proyectos de Arte A.C. (Office for Art Projects) in Guadalajara. Gonzalo Lebrija lives and works in Guadalajara, Mexico.

**Florian & Michael Quistrebart** (b. 1982 and 1976) both graduated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Nantes, and have been working together since 2007. Their work is present in numerous public and private collections. Recent solo exhibitions include the Centre de Creation Contemporaine in Tours, 2019; *The Light of the Light*, Palais de Tokyo, 2016; and *Visions of Void*, Dundee Contemporary Arts, UK (2015). Recent group shows include *Close Up*, EYE Filmmuseum, 2016, *Un mural, des tableaux*, Plateau/ FRAC, 2015; *Superficial Hygiene*, De Hallen, 2014; and *The End of the Night*, LACE, Los Angeles (2013). Florian & Michael Quistrebart were nominated for Prix Marcel Duchamp, Paris (2014) and won the NN Group Art Award at Art Rotterdam (2017) and World Masters of Projection Mapping Award at EYE Filmmuseum (2018). Florian lives and works in Amsterdam and Michael lives and works in Nantes.

**Sylvie Fleury** (b. 1961). Fleury's diverse practice encompasses a variety of media and references, including luxury clothing, accessories and cosmetics, magazine covers, the world of Formula 1 racing, spaceships and icons of modern art. Since her first exhibition *Shopping Bags* in 1991, Fleury has had numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout Europe and the United States. Recent solo exhibitions include the Kunstraum Dornbirn, 2019; Istituto Svizzero, 2019; Villa Stuck, 2016; *Eternity Now*, as part of the permanent collection at the Bass Museum, 2017 and 2015; Centro de arte contemporaneo de Málaga, 2011; and MAMCO Genève, 2008. Her work has also been presented in group shows internationally, including at the Daimler Contemporary, Berlin, 2019; Leopold Museum, 2018; Kunsthaus Zürich, 2018; Museum Haus Konstruktiv, 2016; SCHAUWERK Sindelfingen, 2014; Kunstverein Hannover, 2011; and Kunstverein Frankfurt, 2011. In 2018 she was awarded Switzerland's Prix Meret Oppenheim and in 2015 received the Société des Arts de Genève Prize. The artist lives and works in Genova.

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