

Gallery 38 is pleased to announce the opening of *Bear Nature*, a solo exhibition by Stephanie Quayle.

Stephanie has been creating her artworks in the Isle of Man, UK, where she was born and raised.

While working and living on the farm surrounded by nature, her artistic practice has been inspired by the energy, vitality and knowing gaze that nature possesses. It seems like the animals of her creation, breathed new life by the artist, question the way we humans should be.

This exhibition marks her first solo exhibition in two years, focusing on the bear. Working directly with 3 ton of wet clay, life sized bears will inhabit the Gallery space. Through her art, Stephanie explores the intrinsic nature of bears in which they have been understood as fearful creatures for their physicality and power but also considered as very sensitive and familiar beings to us humans.

How will they make us feel when we encounter them in person?

“ The Bear has occupied our collective human consciousness for thousands of years. They have been admired, spiritualised, mysticized, revered and worshiped as kin by our ancestors and yet baited, feared, exploited and persecuted in the wake of our so called civilised world.

Diverse ancient cultures co-existed with bears; the Inuits, Native Americans, early northern Europeans, and the Ainu shared an upmost respect & reverence for the great Bear. A hibernating soul reborn of the earth each spring represented transformation, growth & renewal, associated with health & healing and as the keeper of dreams. Shamanic practises, bear folklore, sacred dances, totems and naming of constellations evoke the bear spirit and seem to want to harness & honour the majesty of nature.

The anthropomorphic bear has inspired endless fictional characters and fables drawing on the bears human qualities, and maternal devotion. So woven into story telling we barely question the familiar presence of the bear.

The bear has always had a power over the human imagination, our relationship with them seems to reveal more about ourselves than about the bear. In tune with the cycles of nature, the knowing soul of the bear offers us an instinctive, primordial encounter; untamed nature. A true wild creature, solitary and mysterious, remaining on the edge of our imagination. They offer a glimpse into a simpler, harsh but romantically pristine nature, a nature at times indifferent to the human condition. A nature which we seem to long for but incessantly distance ourselves from.

As we consume the environment we share, we lose the indispensable animals who help us to define who we are, we alienate ourselves from the wild, and from our natural self.

A new body of work summons the animal through drawing in wet clay and on paper, bringing the bear to the urban context and questioning our connection with the otherness of nature and our sense of needing to belong. “

Stephanie Quayle



Profile

Born in Isle of Man in 1982, Stephanie graduated from the Slade School of Art London in 2005 and completed her masters degree in Fine Art Sculpture at Royal College of Art London in 2007. Her recent major solo exhibition are 「IN THE SNOW」 (Sidney Cooper Gallery, Canterbury, 2018), 「Jenga」 (TJ Boulting, Fitzrovia Chapel, London, 2016–2017年), 「ANIMAL」 (POST, Tokyo, 2014), 「LION MAN」 (TJ Boulting, London, 2013), 「Stephanie Quayle」 (Nantenshi Gallery/t.gallery, Tokyo, 2013). And recent major group show are 「ANIMALS & US」 (Turner Contemporary Margate, 2018), 「WILD: UNTAMED MIND」 (21_21 Design Sight Museum, Tokyo, 2017), 「A Woman's hand」 (Saatchi Gallery, London, 2015), 「Vita Vitale」 (Venice Biennale, Italy, 2015), 「Art Paris」 (Grand Palais, Paris, 2015) and more.

Exhibition:
Stephanie Quayle
“ Bear Nature “

Date : April 18 (Thu) - June 15 (Sat), 2019

Hours : 12:00 - 19:00

Closed on : Sun, Mon and National Holidays, Spring Holiday: April 28(Sun) - May 6 (Mon)

Artist will be at the gallery on : April 18(Thu), 19(Fri), 20(Sat)

Opening reception : April 18 (Thu) 17:00-20:00

Place : Gallery 38

Address : 2-30-28, Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo Japan
