

Louise Despont
Jutta Koether
Alicja Kwade
Anj Smith
Marianne Vitale
Unica Zürn

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IBID PROJECTS

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IBID is pleased to present a group show with six artists from different generations whose works, made between 1953 to 2011, will be exhibited together for the first time.

The exhibition includes works by Louise Despont, Jutta Koether, Alicja Kwade, Anj Smith, Marianne Vitale and Unica Zürn. The starting point for the show are the drawings of the late German artist and author Unica Zürn (1916 - 1970). Included here are 7 historical works, which have never before been shown in the UK.

There is an aesthetic sensibility that connects Zürn's practice to the paintings of Anj Smith as well as Louise Despont's drawings, and the sculptural forms within Alicja Kwade and Marianne Vitale's respective works almost seem to embody these connections while further exploring the sense of phantasmagoria and mythological compositions apparent in the former artist's work. The exhibition will attempt to look past certain perhaps obvious questions that the juxtaposition of works by these artists may give rise to and instead focus on the promise of a union of ideas and personal aesthetic possibilities from a group of six remarkable artists.

Unica Zürn's (b. Berlin-Grunewald, 1916 – d. Paris, 1970) psychologically charged line drawings combine the Surrealist strategy of automatism with impulses of trance and eroticism. Her works depict fantastic chimeras, bizarre creatures with double faces that represent multiplications of herself, either repeated across the page or set in intricate dream landscapes of mystic animals and otherworldly plant forms. Recently her works have been shown at the Drawing Center, New York (2009) and Ubu Gallery, New York (2007).

Louise Despont's (b. New York, 1983) drawings are notable for their levels of sincerity, intricacy and refinement and are often rendered in graphite on antique ledger book pages. In her larger works, the artist evokes an intimate experience with fine lines and subtle hatch marks revealing themselves only when viewed up close. The resulting works, charged with alternative legacies both cultural and personal, confront the binaries of abstraction and figuration through their encoded compositions.

Jutta Koether (b. Cologne, 1958) has belonged to the independent arts scene for many years and has inspired artists in both Europe and the USA. Her interdisciplinary practice includes painting, music, poetry, film and performance. Entitled 'Mad Garlands' (2011), the works shown at IBID developed out of her recent solo show 'The Thirst' at the Moderna Museet in Stockholm.

The materially precisely worked out sculptures of Alicja Kwade's (b. Berlin, 1979) venture into the field of the natural sciences, although she immerses their materiality and worldliness in carefully considered forms. In '34 disconnected futures (sound wood)' (2011), which consists of 34 found 'sound wood' instrument parts that have been sourced from various craftsmen, each dismantled part derives from different segments of an instrument, and each part also contains temporal elements which investigates aspect of Organology.

Anj Smith (b. Kent, England, 1978) has become well known for her small yet intricately painted canvases, often of post-urban landscapes in which survivors such as hermits and queens are surrounding themselves with forms such as cultural and iconographical residues - often fashion garments or skulls and bones from mythological creatures. Sometimes taking up to 6 months to complete, Smith will exhibit two of her most recent paintings as part of the show.

Marianne Vitale's (b. New York, 1973) aesthetic of carefully cultivated absurdity that develops in her film and video work characterizes her process as a sculptor. She will exhibit works on paper and the video piece 'Patron' (2009), that was included in the Whitney Biennale in 2010, in which it became one of the key works in the exhibition for its gregarious and comical solution to the problem of biennale formats - by ordering the visitors (Patrons) what to do, how to feel, and how to behave.

Also available during the exhibition will be a selection of artists' catalogues and monographs from recent and past exhibitions.

Please contact chelsea@ibidprojects.com for more information or images.