

secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

Press release

Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel

March 26 – June 20, 2021

Galerie

Preview for the press: Thursday, March 25, 2021, 11 a.m.

Guided tour of the exhibition

Please register at presse@secession.at

First day of the exhibition: Thursday, March 25, 2021, 2 – 6 p.m.

Free admission

At first glance, the artist duo Daniel Dewar and Grégory Gicquel's works may seem like anachronisms in this era of the ascent of digital technology: the two have spent years experimenting with a wide range of materials and techniques that they first had to teach themselves and for which they sometimes even needed to make their own equipment such as weaving frames or wood-fired furnaces. They cut stone, carve wood, mold clay and ceramics, and take up artisanal techniques like embroidery and weaving. Both emphasize the importance of executing their works with their own means, using traditional and modern tools and reviving production processes rooted in various crafts that are being superseded by technical automation. They break with tradition by combining their media with incongruous motifs: the entrails, animal parts, or human limbs, for example, that seem to grow from massive oaken chests and cabinets make for a sight that is as amusing as it is disconcerting.

Humans, animals, and plants coalesce into a bizarre and sensual new creation in works that exude the conviction that the same lifeblood courses through all beings and manifests itself even in the cut and dressed wood or marble block. Displacing forms out of their original contexts and assembling them in fanciful hybrids, Dewar & Gicquel produce absurd objects—glimpses, like chimeras or the creatures of legend, of an alternate reality.

At the Secession, Dewar & Gicquel present altogether sixteen works, extending the series of oakwood sculptures they began in 2017. They are hybrids in several respects: between sculpture and furniture, between autonomous work of art and object of utility, between inanimate object and animate creature—human, animal, and plant. The massive oakwood objects are studded with intricately carved and meticulously executed grotesque figurative elements such as arms, noses, gourds, courgettes, and oxen and pig heads that seem to grow out of the chests, cabinets, and dressers.

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The artists describe their most recent sculptures as a “rendezvous of animals of different species and a range of vegetables (...) as mammalian fantasies and pastoral hallucinations.” These works, some of which make their debut in the show, are complemented by a 2015 series of handmade ceramic sculptures that emulate off-the-shelf sanitary ware and introduce the discourse of specific materials as well as the varied artistic play with the commonplace and banal to the exhibition. The duo’s engagement with the codes, traditions, and conventions of art as well as their mischievous humor speak even from their most inconspicuous pieces.

Daniel Dewar was born in Forest of Dean (GB) in 1976 and lives and works in Brussels (BE).
Grégory Gicquel was born in Saint-Brieuc (FR) in 1975 and lives and works in Plévenon (FR).

On occasion of the exhibition an artist’s book by Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel is published.

The exhibition program is conceived by the board of the Secession.
Curator: Bettina Spörr

Press contact

Karin Jaschke
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Press images

Installation views are available for download at <https://www.secession.at/en/presstype/aktuell/>

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We employ local raw materials,
Our workshops are equipped with both old and modern machinery,
And with the help of a small team we made this exhibition.

We carved two monoxylous oak reliefs by hand,
Showing recumbent men lying in a submissive position under a catfish and a row of cow udders,
Similar smooth skins are touching at a meeting point between animals of different species,
A shell and a vase.

Colorado potato beetles and potato flowers embroidered on cushions,
An oak bench covered with snails,
Chisel strokes and embroidery stitches flickering, beetles and flowers fluttering.

Food for insects and food for humans,
A space to rest, a space to contemplate, a space to eat.

A manufacture of ceramic pots, toilet bowls and sinks,
Modelled by hand and wood-fired to stoneware temperature,
Iron oxyde and ashes in the kiln give shine and colour to these fully functional containers.

Serial gestures applied to this unlimited series of wall hanging vessels,
Remind us that the same fluids run through all beings and receptacles;
A space to wash, a space to reflect.

Sculptures in the round or modern farm follies in the shape of furniture pieces,
A chest with a giant Flanders rabbit and three large arms as drawer handles,
Two oxen and a yoke harnessed for labour,
Six pigs in a sty.

Butternut and buttercup squash vegetables growing from cabinet doors,
Cloned muscles and fragments of oily bodies out of oiled oak,
Noses, feet, boots and digestive systems.

Sap, animals, and plants of Europe,
Inter-speciesism and proto-industrial manufacture,
Mammalian fantasies and pastoral hallucinations,
A space for modern rural visions.

Notes by Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel, March 2021

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The artists would like to thank all the team at Secession, as well as Olivier Babin, la Biennale de Lyon, Hecham Boulaiz, Lodovico Corsini, Tristan Dassonville, Elena Filipovic, FRAC île-de-France, Janina Fritz, Clémence Grutering, Jan Kaps, Yves Largillers, Hervé Loevenbruck, MAJUBOIS, Fondazione Palomar, Regis Romé, Alexandra Schillinger, Stefan Tulepo, Fabian Schöneich and Elise van Mourijk.

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Werkliste / List of works Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel

Oak relief with man, udders and vase, 2017

Eichenholz | Oak wood

260 x 73 x 24 cm

Privatsammlung, Frankreich | Private collection, France

Oak relief with man, catfish and shell, 2018

Eichenholz | Oak wood

266 x 87 x 29 cm

Oak bench with Colorado beetles, potato flowers and snails, 2021

Eichenholz und Stickerei auf Polsterung | Oak wood and embroidery on cushion

48 x 2066 x 86 cm

Stoneware mural toilet, 2015

Steinzeug | High-fired stoneware

38 x 59 x 40 cm

Stoneware mural toilet, 2015

Steinzeug | High-fired stoneware

38 x 59 x 40 cm

Stoneware mural toilet, 2015

Steinzeug | High-fired stoneware

38 x 59 x 40 cm

Stoneware mural toilet, 2015

Steinzeug | High-fired stoneware

38 x 59 x 40 cm

Stoneware mural sink, 2015

Steinzeug | High-fired stoneware

46 x 45 x 58 cm

Oak dresser with harnessed oxen, 2019

Eichenholz | Oak wood

133 x 126 x 98 cm

Courtesy die Künstler und Loevenbruck, Paris | Courtesy the artists and Loevenbruck, Paris

Oak dresser with pigs, 2019

Eichenholz | Oak wood

136 x 165 x 165 cm

Collection Fondazione Palomar

Oak cabinet with body fragments, 2020

Eichenholz | Oak wood

151 x 149,2 x 64,7 cm

Sammlung des Fonds régional d'art contemporain Île-de-France

Collection of the Fonds régional d'art contemporain Île-de-France

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Oak chest of drawers with giant Flanders rabbit and arms, 2020

Eichenholz | Oak wood

118,2 x 132,2 x 72 cm

Courtesy die Künstler und C L E A R I N G, New York / Brüssel

Courtesy the artists and C L E A R I N G, New York / Brussels

Oak cabinet with butternut squash, buttercup squash and noses, 2020

Eichenholz | Oak wood

161 x 202 x 68,3 cm

Oak dresser with organs and boots, 2021

Eichenholz | Oak wood

107 x 76 x 226 cm

Oak chest with courgettes and nose, 2021

Eichenholz | Oak wood

82 x 61 x 72 cm

Oak chest with feet and snail, 2021

Eichenholz | Oak wood

82 x 54 x 67 cm

Sofern nicht anders angegeben:

Courtesy die Künstler, C L E A R I N G, New York / Brüssel; Loevenbruck, Paris; Jan Kaps, Köln

If not stated otherwise:

Courtesy the artists and C L E A R I N G, New York / Brussels; Loevenbruck, Paris; Jan Kaps, Cologne

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Biografie / Biography Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel

Daniel Dewar, 1976 geboren / born in Forest of Dean (GB), lebt / lives in Brussels / Brüssel (BE).
Grégory Gicquel, 1975 geboren / born in Saint-Brieuc (FR), lebt / lives in Plévenon (FR).

Einzelausstellungen (Auswahl) / Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2020 *Animals and Sculpture*, C L E A R I N G, Brüssel / Brussels
NUDES, Van Buuren Museum & Gardens, Brüssel / Brussels
- 2019 *Mammalian Fantasies*, Kunsthalle Basel
Fantasmies Mammifères, Biennale de Lyon – Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyon
- 2017 *The Mammal and the Sap*, Portikus, Frankfurt
The Nude and the Sap, Witte de With, Rotterdam
- 2016 *Digitalis*, Kiosk, Gent
- 2015 *Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel*, Front Desk Apparatus, New York
- 2014 *La Jeune Sculpture*, Musée Rodin, Paris
- 2013 *Le Hall*, Espace 315, Centre Pompidou, Paris
Jus d'orange, Palais de Tokyo, Paris
- 2008 *Mason Massacre*, Les Collections de St Cyprien, St Cyprien, Frankreich / France
- 2007 *Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel*, FRAC Basse-Normandie, Caen, Frankreich / France
Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel, Palais de Tokyo, Paris

Gruppenausstellungen (Auswahl) / Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2021 *Boy Vereecken – Back Matter*, MACRO – Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome, Rome
Life on Planet Orsimanirana, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg
- 2020 *Sculpture Garden*, Geneva Biennale, Genf / Geneva
Body. Gaze. Power. A cultural history of the bath, Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden
- 2017 *The Absent Museum*, Wiels Contemporary Art Centre, Brüssel / Brussels
- 2015 *Words aren't the thing*, CAC, Vilnius, Litauen / Lithuania
- 2014 *PLAY TIME*, Les Ateliers de Rennes – Biennale d'Art Contemporain, Rennes, Frankreich / France
- 2013 *Labour and Wait*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, USA
I know you, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
- 2012 *Prix Marcel Duchamp*, Grand Palais, Paris
- 2011 Yokohama Triennale, Yokohama Museum of Art & NYK Waterfront Warehouse, Yokohama, Japan
Making is Thinking, Witte de With, Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam
- 2010 *Dynasty*, Palais de Tokyo – Musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris / ARC, Paris
- 2009 *La Force de l'Art 02*, Grand Palais, Paris
- 2007 *New Economy*, Artists Space, New York

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Association of Visual Artists Vienna Secession
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Exhibitions

Hauptraum

Tess Jaray. *Return to Vienna: The Paintings of Tess Jaray*

February 19 – April 18, 2021

Galerie

Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel

March 26 – June 20, 2021

Grafisches Kabinett

Yuji Agematsu. 2020

March 26 – June 20, 2021

Artist's books

Tess Jaray. Thinking on Paper, 336 pages, ca. 200 images, € 35,-

Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel: published in the course of the exhibition

Yuji Agematsu. Four Seasons, 128 pages, ca. 250 images, € 35,-

Permanent Presentation

Gustav Klimt, *Beethoven Frieze*

Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday 2 – 6 p.m.

Admission

Beethoven Frieze & Contemporary Art Exhibitions

Adults € 9,50; Pupils, students and senior citizens € 6,-

Press contact

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Press images

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