

ARTBRUT.art

Galerie Ritsch-Fisch

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*From September 12 to October 12
6 Rue des Charpentiers in Strasbourg*

Vernissage
12 septembre 2024
18h - 20h

Galerie Ritsch-Fisch
12 septembre - 12 octobre

RHAPSODIE

A.C.M.
Laure André
Hervé Bohnert
Henry Darger
Paul Goesch
Mustapha El Haddar
Stefan Holzmüller
Augustin Lesage
Cecilie Markova
Adrien Michel
Heinrich Nüsslein
Morgane Salmon
Carlo Zinelli



ritschfisch.com • +33 (0)3 88 23 60 74 • 6 rue des Charpentiers, 67000 Strasbourg



Opening on September 12, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

COMITÉ PROFESSIONNEL
DES GALERIES D'ART

contact : Richard Solti
contact@ritschfisch.com
+ 33 6 23 67 88 56

Rhapsody, presented from September 12 to October 12, 2024, in Strasbourg, explores a central theme of the Ritsch-Fisch Gallery: the resilience of life and its ability to adapt, resist, and regenerate in the face of ecological challenges.

Like a complex musical composition, Rhapsody is a confrontation of the work of 13 artists, without any sense of chronology or hierarchy, and across a multitude of mediums: photography, painting, drawing, and sculpture. In this way, it follows in the tradition of bold and innovative exhibitions such as "Les Magiciens de la Terre" (1989), "Le Mur" (2004), and "Carambolage" (2016), which, like Art Brut, have left a mark on the art world through their unconventional approach. The use of the term Rhapsody comes from music: a free blend of themes and motifs, with a structure more flexible than a traditional symphony or concerto, allowing for greater expression of spontaneity and variety.

The exhibition is built around eight photographs by Adrien Michel, taken using rolls of Russian color film "Svema 50" from 1985, found through one of his contacts in the Chernobyl exclusion zone. The artist obtained a camera that allowed for eight shots per roll. Developed in Ukraine, these photos bear the marks of time and, likely, the nuclear disaster. In the gallery space, each photo is placed in dialogue with two other works in a triangular relationship that seeks to evoke more of a collector's arrangement than that of a curator: photos, paintings, drawings, and sculptures are presented according to a logic that transcends style, chronology, or the artist's origin. Only the exploration of the question of life guides the selection of works and the exhibition's layout. Visitors are invited to let their gaze listen and, in a way, to return to the works, writing their own combination of meanings derived from their personal mythology.

Alongside Adrien Michel's photographs, the work of emblematic Art Brut artists Carlo Zinelli, Henry Darger, Paul Goesch, Heinrich Nüsslein, and Augustin Lesage is presented. These works converse with contemporary creations by Laure André, Hervé Bohnert, Morgane Salmon, and Mostafa El Haddar.



Adrien Michel, original print (1/5) 12x18 inches, 2019.



Morgane Salmon, assemblage de céramique, 200x31 cm, 2024.



A.C.M., Architecture, circa 2015, Assembly of electronic components and mechanical parts, 23.6 x 21.7 x 18.3 inches



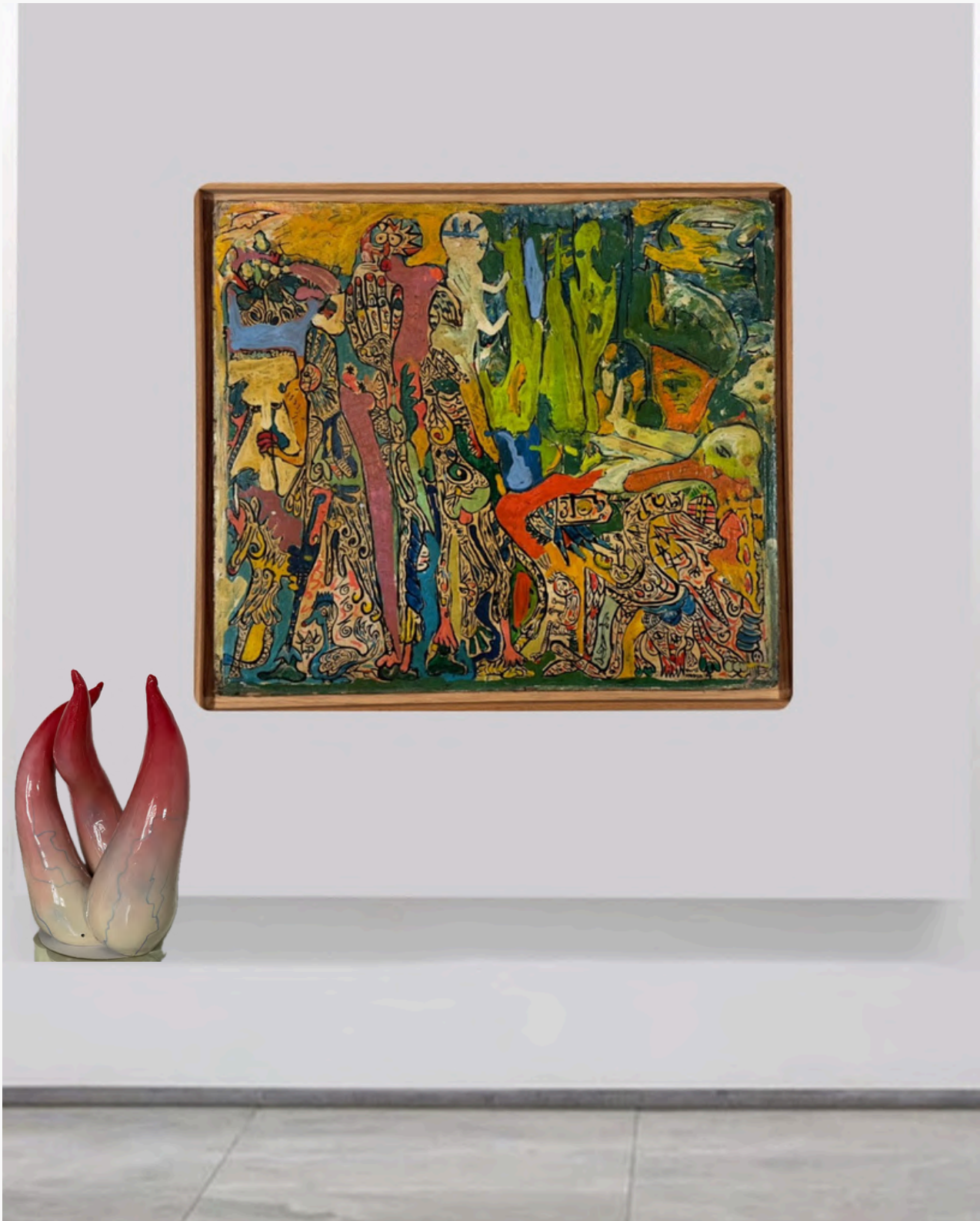
Adrien Michel, original print (1/5) 12x18 inches, 2019.



Hervé Bohnert, carved wood, 18.5 x 11.4 x 7.9 inches, undated.



Hervé Bohnert, old photo scraped and painted
20.5 x 16.5 inches, undated.



Mostapha El Haddar, acrylic on cardboard, 19.7 x 35.4 inches, undated.

Laure André, Untitled, ceramic, 19.7x11.8x7.9 inches, 2023.

Two works by A.C.M. are exhibited. One of his famous architectures of 13 elements, arranged like a kind of checkerboard, explores the metaphor of a rusted modernity where frozen gears overlay smooth planes. Upon closer inspection, a set of mechanical monuments rises, seemingly protecting a figure placed under the gaze of a photographic lens. The second work is an assemblage painting made of plaster, wood, and very old electrical materials, hung on one of the gallery walls. This piece, dating from 1985, is one of his earliest creations, a precursor to a monumental body of work now housed in the world's most prestigious collections, including institutions like the Centre Pompidou in Paris and the Musée d'Art Moderne de Lille Villeneuve-d'Ascq (LAM).

Laure André's artistic language is embodied in a work that evokes the strange—a nod to the centenary of Surrealism. This piece echoes the "Ras-Bord" project presented in Strasbourg in 2023, whose monumental work was selected for the "Personal Structures" exhibition at the Venice Biennale 2024.

In contrast, Cecilie Markova, deeply inspired by Czech ornamental tradition, has composed a world of organic forms, vegetal motifs, and biomorphic drawings that consistently stand out against a plain background. Cecilie Markova captured on paper or canvas what was inspired by a prior meditation, a connection with an unseen world from which she sought to translate emotions and sensations spontaneously. Cecilie Markova's work is present in major international collections and in the collections of the Pompidou Museum in Paris.

Stefan Holzmüller's ceramic work, recently exhibited at the Halle Saint-Pierre in Paris and at the Ritsch-Fisch gallery in a dialogue with young ceramicist Morgane Salmon, invites us into a fantastical world where humans, fauna, and flora blend together in a joyful and poetic dance. His work is part of the Art Brut collection in Lausanne, where it continues to captivate with its imaginative fusion of natural elements.

Morgane Salmon, on the other hand, presents a totemic work resembling a gnarled, multi-colored tree, evoking the diversity of the seasons. This piece, a sort of megalith formed by stacking ceramic elements, invents a structure that simultaneously expresses the serene strength of an ancient trunk and the fragility of life.

Mostafa El Hadar, an artist from Essaouira, holds a significant place in the North African Art Brut scene. His works are richly adorned with floral and vegetal motifs. These elements are often stylized, repetitive, and integrated into complex compositions. Flowers, leaves, and other natural forms frequently appear, sometimes arranged in patterns reminiscent of traditional regional tapestries or mosaics.

In Henry Darger's work, nature is laden with symbolism. Flowers, trees, and animals represent innocence, purity, and beauty, but also the fragility of life in the face of human violence and corruption. The natural landscapes, with their vast skies and distant horizons, echo themes of freedom and the struggle against oppression. The contrast between peaceful natural scenes and brutal depictions of violence heightens the dramatic impact of his narratives.

Carlo Zinelli, whose fiftieth anniversary of passing was commemorated in 2024 with three exhibitions in Strasbourg, New York, and Paris, frequently explores the boundary between human and animal, often depicting figures that are part human, part animal. This fusion resonates as an exploration of identity, where the human merges with the natural environment, or as a metaphor for primal instincts and vital forces.

Nature in Augustin Lesage's work is not merely decorative; it plays a crucial role in expressing his spirituality. Animals are depicted as totems and mystical symbols, embodying spiritual forces and vital energies.

Similarly, in Heinrich Nüsslein's work, nature is deeply imbued with spiritual symbolism. His art reflects a quest for cosmic harmony and a connection with higher forces. Natural motifs are not just decorative elements but symbols of a deeper spiritual reality. They can represent life, growth, purification, or transcendence.

Paul Goesch, a German artist and architect murdered by the Nazi regime, created works often saturated with vibrant colors and organic forms, where nature holds a significant place, though frequently transformed and interpreted through a spiritual and symbolic lens. As an architect, Goesch often incorporated natural elements into his designs of fantastical architectures. The buildings he imagined were often adorned with floral motifs or seemed to emerge from nature itself, as if they were an integral part of the landscape. This fusion of architecture and nature reflects an organic and almost animistic vision of the world, where human structures exist in harmony with the natural world.



Henry Darger, gouache on paper, 69 x 92.5 cm, circa 1950-1960.

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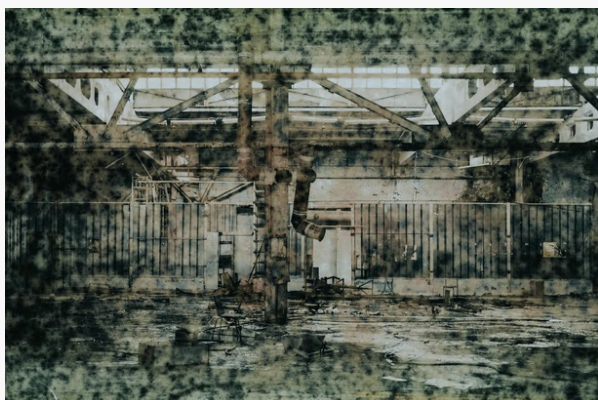
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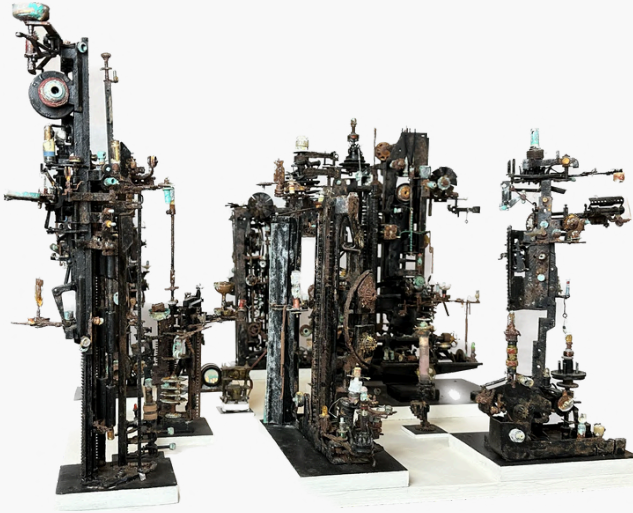
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Adrien Michel, original print (1/5) 12x18 inches, 2019.



A.C.M., Architecture
circa 2015

Assembly of electronic components and mechanical parts
23.6 x 21.7 x 18.3 inches



Hervé Bohnert, Untitled, circa 1990
assemblage of various materials
22x13.8x1 inches.



Laure André, Untitled, ceramic
19.7x11.8x7.9 inches.



Hervé Bohnert, Untitled, carved wood,
18.5x11.4x7.9 inches.



Hervé Bohnert, Untitled, old photo scratched and
painted, 6.3x8.7 inches.



Hervé Bohnert, Untitled, old photo scratched and painted,
20.5x16.5 inches.



Henry Darger, circa 1950-1960
Gouache on paper
69 x 92.5 cm.



Paul Goesch, circa 1927
Watercolor on paper
8.2x5.2 inches.



Mostapha El Haddar
Untitled, undated, acrylic on cardboard
19.7x35.4 inches.



Stefan Holzmüller, circa 1985,
Glazed ceramic
9.1x11.8x9.8 inches.



Stefan Holzmüller, 1987
Glazed ceramic
6.3x5.5x6.3 inches.



Augustin LESAGE
Untitled, circa 1930-1931
oil on canvas
25.2x19.1 inches.



Cecilie Markova
Untitled, 1955, pencil on paper,
17.7x26 inches.



Heinrich Nüsslein
Athen Sandte Fernetelepathisc Ein
Hakenkeuz
circa 1930, mixed media on paper
12.6x19.5 inches.



Morgane Salmon
Toterne aux deux serpents, 2024
ceramic assemblage
78.7x12.2 inches.



Carlo Zinelli
Number 115 in the General Catalogue
circa 1960, gouache on paper
13.8x19.7 inches.

- *A.C.M. (Alfred Marié): French visual artist, born in Hargicourt in 1951 and passed away in 2023.*
- *Laure André: French visual artist and illustrator, born in 1981. She lives and works in Strasbourg.*
- *Hervé Bohnert: French painter and visual artist, born in 1967. He lives and works in Strasbourg.*
- *Henry Darger: American artist, born in Chicago in 1896 and passed away in 1973.*
- *Paul Goesch (or Paul Gösch): German artist and architect, born on August 30, 1885, in Schwerin, and died in August 1940 in Brandenburg an der Havel.*
- *Mostafa El Hadar: Artist living and working in Essaouira, Morocco.*
- *Stefan Holzmüller: German artist, born in 1949 in Karlsruhe and passed away in 2010.*
- *Augustin Lesage: French artist, born in 1876 in Saint-Pierre-lez-Auchel, and passed away on February 21, 1954.*
- *Cecilie Markova: Czech artist, born in 1911 in Kyjov, Czech Republic, and passed away in 1998.*
- *Adrien Michel: Artist born and working in Strasbourg.*
- *Heinrich Nüsslein: German artist, born in 1879 in Nuremberg, and passed away in 1947.*
- *Morgane Salmon: Artist living and working in Strasbourg.*
- *Carlo Zinelli: Italian artist, born in 1916 in San Giovanni Lupatoto, Italy, and passed away in 1974.*

*Photo credit:
Ritsch-Fisch gallery
Candice Assié*

*contact : Richard Solti
contact@ritschfisch.com
+ 33 6 23 67 88 56*



The Ritsch-Fisch Gallery is a historic outsider art gallery, founded in Strasbourg in 1996. Richard Solti is the owner and director. The gallery is known for curating exhibitions and developing projects in partnership with both public and private cultural institutions. It participates in international art fairs in France and the United States. The gallery's mission is driven by the ambition to bring together different generations of artists and various periods of art history, with historical outsider art as the starting point. Its program aims to rediscover the work of artists whose creations were once disregarded, marginalized, scorned, or hidden, and to foster a dialogue between these works and those of young artists. These contemporary artists focus on preserving life, addressing current environmental issues, and exploring themes of inclusivity and diversity.