



josée bienvenu
gallery

The Anne Fontaine Foundation and Josée Bienvenu present

Ghost-Prints by Thomas Fougeirol
120 Monoprints
May 23-25, 2019

Opening: May 23rd from 6-8pm

At the Josée Bienvenu Gallery
529 W 20th street, New York, NY 10011

with the presence of fashion designer and president of the Anne Fontaine Foundation Anne Fontaine

The exhibition will benefit the Anne Fontaine Foundation and help achieve the goal of planting 100,000 trees in the Mata Atlântica, Brazil by 2020



The Anne Fontaine Foundation is pleased to present *Ghosts Prints* by French artist Thomas Fougéirol. This is the first time that this unique series of monoprints will be exhibited in New York. Though Fougéirol has used the 1:1 scale to represent nature, he is not working as a scientist. He plays with composition, form and color, revealing the diversity of nature found locally near his studio in France; the series is effectively a portrait of the artist's garden. A percentage of the sales will be given to the Anne Fontaine Foundation and its plantation program in the Atlantic forest in Brazil.

Herbaria through time, allegories of life

Botanists and explorers collected herbaria from their expeditions in the Old and New Worlds, which represented a collection of memories, knowledge, and visions, as well as a journey across the centuries. New plants brought back by the explorers opened a field of possibilities, profoundly changing the physiognomy of landscapes. Landscapers, scientists, and artists seized this new space of creation as an allegory of life, for study and as tools for works. Millions of herbarium specimens are conserved today in botanical gardens and natural history museums all over the world. These collections are used to describe life, to improve knowledge of biodiversity and its dynamics, but they also constitute an enormous archive of genetic code, providing a wealth of information in the current context of species extinction.

From cyanotypes to monotypes

Thomas Fougéirol lives between Brooklyn and Ivry-sur-Seine, Paris. His studio in France is surrounded by nature in the heart of the city. In 2003, Thomas began to pick flowers and plants from the local alleys and streets around his studio to build his own herbarium.

"Everything that surrounds me has a very strong impact on my conception of the composition of forms, and it came naturally to me to pick the flowers from my studio garden and to pass them through the engraving press, both as a photographic record of my immediate environment, and also out of an interest in seeing the plants imprint themselves on the sheet of paper. This practice over the past fifteen years has significantly changed the way I think about painting. It is not a herbarium, in the sense that the flowers are not preserved and dried, but instead recorded in the way photographer Anna Atkins used the cyanotype as a means of fixing her images of plants at the end of the 19th century," Fougéirol says about his monoprint series.

More than one hundred of his monoprints reflect nature at a 1:1 scale. The compositions range from simple leaves to cross forms, traces of plants and bouquets of flowers. Certain plants and flowers appear to dance on the sheet of paper, whereas others are treated more in the manner of portraits. Whether poetic or anxious, each herbarium is unique. The process of monotype gives Fougéirol a wide gamut for reproduction, through the color of the background and the effect of the radiogram and imprint, revealing the manufacture of the paper and its defects. It can be seen as a memory of the studio garden or in the spirit of an apparition.

Dorothee Charles, Executive Director, Anne Fontaine Foundation

Exhibition

120 monoprints

Format: 65x50 cm

Price/each: \$600.00USD, 30% of which is given to the Anne Fontaine Foundation

About Thomas Fougéirol



He lives and works between Brooklyn and Paris, where he runs non-profit exhibition space Dust. He holds a DNSEP from École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts and is the recipient of the 1998 Coprim Foundation Award. Fougeirol is represented by Praz-Delavallade in Paris and Los Angeles and Albertz Benda in New York. He was included in Fifteen Year Anniversary Exhibition at the Margulies Collection in Miami as well as “From Pre-History to Post-Every-thing” at the Sean Kelly Gallery in New York. Acquisitions have been made by Musée d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, FR; Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR; Musée Estrine, Saint Remy de Provence, FR; Fondation Louis Vuitton pour l’art contemporain, FR; FNAC, Fond National d’Art Contemporain, Paris, FR; Fondation Antonio Perez, Cuenca, ES; Collection Chanel ; FRAC Haute Normandie, Rouen, FR ; the Margulies Collection, Miami, FL ; and the Berezdivin Collection, Puerto Rico, PR.

About the Anne Fontaine Foundation

The Anne Fontaine Foundation is a non-profit organization (501c 3) with a mission to reforest and protect the Mata Atlântica. In collaboration with NGOs in Brazil, the Foundation has already planted 45,000 trees; our goal is to plant 100,000 trees by 2022. In addition to this mission, we also provide grants to botanists and scientists and develop educational and artistic programs with artists, museums, curators, and historians.

About Josée Bienvenu Gallery

Josée Bienvenu Gallery opened in September 2004. The gallery has cultivated a highly focused program with an emphasis on drawing in relation to space and time. The gallery represents an intimate selection of both emerging and mid-career international and Latin American artists.

Contact:

Dorothee Charles

Executive Director, Anne Fontaine Foundation

Tel. +1 646-385-9372

dorothee.charles@annefontainefoundation.org