

**Brooklyn Rail:** 'ARLENE SHECHET: Some Truths' by Phong Bui, 1st May 2018

ARLENE SHECHET: Some Truths

ALMINE RECH, PARIS | APRIL 21 - MAY 26, 2018



Arlene Shechet, *Like Kali*, 2018. Glazed ceramic, wood, paint, 53 × 28 × 19 inches. © Arlene Shechet. Photo: Rebecca Fanuele. Courtesy the artist and Almine Rech Gallery.

I vaguely remember Picasso whispering to Casagemas,  
Social conservatives deprive themselves the pleasure of  
Fumbling, stumping, bumbling, wobbling, wavering  
Through the magic of “la fée verte.”

Spatial disequilibrium teeters the body from its inner ear,  
The Body is an Ear! Take my hand,  
Walk gently across this slippery terrain,  
An orchestra of prodigious social characters  
Here to rebel, against conservative agendas?  
Yes, without pointing fingers.

Someone clucks in one corner what, Who, What, When means  
Which, why, and where language often fails to describe.  
The imagination—reality does not interest him whatsoever!  
She, in the opposite corner, mumbles,  
Your imagination does not stand straight like  
How we were taught as children in earthy paradise.

He, “I have no sense of humor.”  
“Try to stick your index finger,” she says “in between  
Your sternal ends, ah, in Roundabout ways.”  
Pow! He, “I feel like a stoutly Balzac in Rodin’s hands  
About to fall off the pedestal.”

Tickling gravity, softening a perpendicular axis in  
Equal Time, “aggressive tenderness,” “Hermetica  
Buddhist” aura, shaking hands with Sigmund Freud

Not far from Prambanan temple.

I really dig the “hybrid comic clumsiness” that she’s been  
Harvesting unapologetically for quite some time.

It’s a holistic yet synthetic Deep Listening.

Once it’s heard, everyone walks between intervals

Like drunken monkeys in Journey to the West.

Echoing the Big Bang with constant mantra,

Like Kali, a force of time.

Serenely fierce, capable of Standing Paw.

Giving birth to mortals of various casts, sizes,

Heights, widths, to-be made, readymade, all

Resting on countless impeccable foundations.