ALMINE RECH

In the Mood...

Mar 1 — Aug 31, 2025 | Frac Normandie, Caen, France

The exhibition ‘In the Mood...' brings together works from the Frac's collection and those of guest artists.

In a light-hearted, light-hearted atmosphere, the works flirt with the world of fashion and pageantry, using accessories, clothes, fabrics and materials to create a pop, dynamic look. The body is revealed through the prism of the artifices that sculpt or shape its appearance. In this spirit, the first part of the exhibition is punctuated by multiple sets of legs, in a nod to the famous tights brand and its *All Marilyns* advert. The same is true of the slender shapes finely sculpted by Chloé Royer and hoisted onto prototypes of haute couture shoes. Like silhouettes, they evoke the rhythmic march of a fashion show and the artifice that sublimates the body as much as it damages it. For her part, Farah Attasi plays with the aesthetic codes of the avant-gardes of the early 20th century. Forms derived from dance, music and theatre are used as pretexts for the pictorial experience.

Other moods offer a more disenchanted vision of the body. The human figure stumbles, falls, loses its head, takes on the appearance of a mannequin or puppet, or seems to melt under the material. Like little theatres with disquieting sets or false pretence, the works exude a powerful fictional potential fed by cinematographic references, fantastic tales, art anecdotes... It is in this intriguing atmosphere that Virginie Barré's installation *Ecarlate* closes the exhibition. In a red room that could be described as Lyncheenne, a female mannequin lies on top of light fixtures. Accompanied by the tune *Midnight the Stars and You*, performed by the Ray Noble Orchestra in 1934 and taken from the soundtrack of Stanley Kubrick's film *The Shining*, the work is in itself a great way to scare yourself!

The title track, ‘In the Mood... a reference to Glenn Miller's swing tune of the same name from the 1940s, adds a musical touch to the exhibition, which ends with a foxtrot. Finally, there is an allusion to Wong Kar-Wai's film *In the Mood for Love* and its languorous waltz, an invitation to move among the works.

'In the Mood...' with Farah Atassi, Michel Aubry, Virginie Barré, Sarah Benslimane, Hugo Capron, Delphine Coindet, Charlotte Delval, Ligia Dias, Diane Gaignoux, Anabelle Hulaut, Véronique Joumard, Jean-Claude Mattrat, Mrzyk & Moriceau, Pauline Boudry / Renate Lorenz, Bernard Quesniaux, Chloé Royer, Hans Schabus, Marnie Weber

Curator: Anne Cartel