ALMINE RECH

Inès Longevial
L'Heure magique

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Born in Agen in 1990, Inès Longevial works in drawing and painting, drawing on impressions, feelings and sensations that she seeks to translate into her palette. The artist explores the human figure through faces and bodies in vibrant colours that come to life under her brush, almost qualifying them as landscapes. She breaks free from traditional codes, allowing herself no eccentricity, either in her choice of colours or in the poses assumed by the subjects of her paintings.

Inès Longevial has been aware of art since she was a child, and moved to Paris at the age of twenty-three after obtaining a higher diploma in applied arts in Toulouse. Fascinated by the creations of the great masters of the twentieth century, such as Pablo Picasso, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Georgia O'Keeffe, Vincent Van Gogh and Niki de Saint Phalle, she draws inspiration from them in her creative process, while developing her own pictorial style, favouring the genre of the self-portrait. Her work is particularly focused on capturing faces and treating the skin with bright colours, intense pinks and bluish shadows. Since 2020, the artist has allowed herself to paint other faces, mostly familiar and always feminine, notably with the series of twelve small incandescent formats entitled *Magic hour*.

Very popular on social networks, Inès Longevial has established herself as a rising figure in French contemporary art. She has exhibited her work in the United States, Germany and France. For this, her first exhibition in her native land, the artist is offering the public in Agen a collection of over sixty canvases and drawings in small, large and very large formats, some of which have been specially created for the site of the Jacobins church.

The portraits presented in the nave of the Jacobins church, in small and large formats, show faces with magnetic gazes, bodies in movement, fragments of bodies that convey an emotion, an atmosphere, the play of light on the skin. The colours, bright and warm or cooler, change according to the season or the time of day.

The Jacobins church is also home to a very large-format canvas, *Parce que*, which the artist's followers were able to discover online in a video - *Parce que* - produced in 2019. In it, young director Neels Castillon stages the synchronised performance of dancer Léo Walk, abandoning himself to the music, and Inès Longevial, painting a monumental work in a vast abandoned house in the South of France, to the tune of Serge Gainsbourg. This melancholy choreographic creation can be discovered in the immersive space of our exhibition.

And to make sure you are fully immersed in the world of Inès Longevial, a space recreating the atmosphere of her studio has been set up in the chapel of the Jacobins church: here you will discover photographs of the artist at work, as well as sketchbooks and painting equipment.