ALMINE RECH

Je est un autre

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Château La Coste is pleased to present 'Je est un autre' at La Galerie Bastide. This group show brings together four international artists: Marcella Barceló, Cécilia Granara, Pauline Guerrier and Inès Longevial, who use figures and colour to explore the infinite continent of the vagaries of identity and its limitless variables.

The title, a tribute to the poet Arthur Rimbaud, evokes the complex nature of the self, what we perceive of it and the countless ways in which we represent it. The figuration of the self will never really be achieved or possible, because there is always a gap between the idea we have of ourselves and what appears on the canvas. The strangeness of the figure in relation to the intention bears witness to the fact that “I is another”.

On the other hand, to represent the other is necessarily to represent them as we perceive, conceive, desire, love or hate them, and consequently there is always a part of the self, conscious or unconscious, in the representation of the other that I propose. In different ways, each of these artists uses the figure in their compositions to explore identity in relation to oneself and others, to nature and the world around us.

Inès Longevial's delicate, sensual paintings mostly take the form of self-portraits. The calm, reflective poses of her subjects are accentuated by a particular approach to light, and a palette of vivid colours that echo a direct link with primal emotions. As seen elsewhere in this exhibition, the free use of colour conveys an emotion that touches the viewer at the deepest level.

Marcella Barceló's work often features elements of self-portraiture, like autobiographical references to her youth. These floating, dreamlike compositions echo a wide variety of references to the history of art. A disturbing metaphorical strangeness emanates from Marcella Barceló's canvases, stemming from an aesthetic of the elusive nature of the sensible world, which she acquired on her many trips to Japan.

Cecilia Granara's colourful, immersive works question the body as the seat of emotions. Sadness, desire, love and lack are often represented in the artist's paintings. Colour is of paramount importance in Cecilia's paintings, as it awakens the body to enter new spheres of the imagination, often represented through religious and cultural iconography. Although colours represent joy, warmth and hope, for Cecilia they are also a collective refuge from violence.

Pauline Guerrier's constant desire to discover new ways of producing foreign crafts has led her to integrate a truly historical dimension into her multi-disciplinary work, nourished by different cultures and identities. The colours and materials she uses, such as straw marquetry and sculptures, are inspired by her many journeys around the world and are veritable vectors of ideas, always linked to ecology, science, faith, superstition or the human body.

Curator: Margaux Plessy