

NOVEMBER 18TH, 2023 → JANUARY 28TH, 2024
OPENING ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17TH, 2023

HUMA BHABHA

A Fly Appeared, and Disappeared



Huma Bhabha
The Hood Maker, 2019
Cork, Styrofoam, acrylic, oil stick
192,5 x 61 x 61 cm
Alissa Friedman collection
© Huma Bhabha. Courtesy the artist and David Zwirner

A Fly Appeared, and Disappeared is Huma Bhabha's first monographic exhibition in a French institution.

The artist was born in 1962 in Karachi, Pakistan, and studied in the United States, first at the Rhode Island School of Design, then at Columbia University. Now based in Poughkeepsie, New York, Huma Bhabha brings together different eras, materials, and iconic forms to create works that bring forth anthropomorphic and hybrid presences by constantly adding, layering, and cutting materials. The figure is ubiquitous in her work, always suggesting an ambiguous otherness, whether distant or near, ancient or unborn. This exceptional artist draws on an infinite repertoire of references, borrowing from both the academic world and popular culture, from ancient statuary to science fiction films, insisting on a universalism of forms.

Some fifty works will be displayed at MO.CO.: cork and polystyrene sculptures, bronzes, drawings on paper and photographs, photogravures and ceramics form a welcoming horde, guiding us through the artist's own syncretism. The exhibition opens with the pivotal sculpture *Centaur* (2000), then moves on to large-scale sculptures, assemblages, collages, and layering of different materials such as wire, clay, and cork. Often hieratic and dense, they recall totem poles or archaic statues, enhanced by paint or coloured polystyrene.

The anatomical details are human, often mixed with animal features (monkey, owl, dog, or wolf). In the drawings on photographs that she has taken, humans and animals appear in devastated landscapes. The use of pastel in her drawings gives a softer aspect to potential metamorphoses

or hybridisation. The links and traces are always there, within a wide range of presence and affirmation. The exhibition ends with her latest terracotta works, produced for an exhibition at Casa Wabi, Mexico, in 2022.

The exhibition highlights motifs inherent to Huma Bhabha's work, such as achronicity, layering and assemblage, fragmentation, hybridisation, otherness, the group forming a pack. Shown in France for the first time, this unprecedented selection of works will astonish and amaze, but also highlight the complexity of an ever-changing world, which the artist invokes without compromise, managing to always transcend it. The exhibition is accompanied by a richly illustrated catalogue, published in both French and English by Snoeck Edition. The graphic design was entrusted to Atelier Tout va bien. It includes unpublished texts by Numa Hambursin and Eva Barois De Caével, as well as an interview between Huma Bhabha and Vincent Honoré.

MO.CO. has collaborated with the Belgian museum, M Leuven, currently presenting a common selection of 35 works for their summer monographic exhibition, *Living Things*. This partnership enables the exhibition to travel and meet different audiences across Europe. It is made possible thanks to the commitment of the artist, as well as the support of the galleries Xavier Hufkens, David Kordansky, and David Zwirner.

Under the artistic direction of Numa Hambursin, MO.CO. C.E.O., the exhibition is curated by Vincent Honoré, Director of Exhibitions, along with Rahmouna Boutayeb and Pauline Faure, curators, assisted by Alexis Loisel-Montambaux.



MO.CO. Montpellier contemporain, 2022 © Photo : Salem Mostefaoui

ABOUT MO.CO.

MO.CO. is an artistic ecosystem that goes from training to collection, production, exhibition and mediation, due to the convergence of an art school and two contemporary art centers: the MO.CO. Esba (Superior School of Fine Arts of Montpellier), the MO.CO. Panacée (laboratory of contemporary creation) and the MO.CO. (space dedicated to exhibitions of international scope).

EVENTS PROGRAM

Summer 2023

ANA MENDIETA

Exhibition from June 3 to September 17 2023
at MO.CO. Panacée

NEO RAUCH

Exhibition from July 8 to October 15 2023
at MO.CO.

Autumn 2023

SOL! THE REGIONAL BIENNALE #2

Exhibition from October 14 to January 14 2024
Opening Friday October 13 2023, 6pm
at MO.CO. Panacée

HUMA BHABHA

Exhibition from November 18 to January 28 2024
Opening Friday November 17 2023, 6pm
at MO.CO.

USEFUL INFORMATION

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MO.CO.

13 rue de la République, 34000 Montpellier
Open Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm (October-May)
and 11am to 7pm (June-September)

MO.CO. Panacée

14 rue de l'École de Pharmacie, 34000 Montpellier
Open Wednesday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm (October-May)
and 11am to 7pm (June-September)

Photos and credits

Visuals of the exhibition available online in the press area
www.moco.art
Login : presse
Password : moco2019



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