

ANGELA · DETANICO · RAFAEL · LAIN

M E T A M O R P H O S E S
M E T A M O R P H O S E S
M E T A M O R P H O S E S
M E T A M O R P H O S E S
M E T A M O R P H O S E S

opening : september 7, 2019

exhibition : september 7 - october 19, 2019

"Le premier goust que j'eus aux livres, il me vint du plaisir des fables de la Métamorphose d'Ovide"
Montaigne

*The Ovid's Metamorphoses (43 BC - 17 AD) is a monumental work composed of 15 books and twelve thousand verses. This work, which has the scope of an epic poem, also uses the verse of the epic, namely the dactyl hexameter. But, even if there are many epic characters, this poem occupies a singular place in Latin poetry. It describes the birth and history of the Greco-Roman world up to the time of Emperor Augustus through legends and episodes of mythology. This first century is marked by major works of Latin literature such as Virgil's *Enéide*, which is inspired by Hellenistic myths to create a founding poem in Roman culture. This rewriting of Greek matter is omnipresent in Ovid, which is inspired by Homer with the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, but also by the Hesiod's *Theogony*.*

METAMORPHOSES is the new and eighth solo exhibition by Angela Detanico and Rafael Lain at Martine Aboucaya Gallery.

Angela Detanico and Rafael Lain have been working together since 1996. Semiologist and graphic designer, respectively born in 1974 and 1973 in Brazil, they live and work in Paris. Fascinated by what goes beyond man and the understanding of the world around him, they draw from scientific, mathematical and literary research systems of representation and writing of time, space, memory and infinity.

After working from rather scientific texts (Galileo, Copernicus or Ptolemy), they approach literature, philosophy and poetry with great respect. Thus Gilles Deleuze, Paul Valéry, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, Sapphô, Emilie Dickinson, Gertrude Stein and Jacques Roubaud appear in their works.

This project around the transformation and the appearance gathers a new body of coloured and incarnated works. The metamorphosis of the characters sung in Ovid's masterpiece is represented here in unexpected, delicate and very poetic forms.

Nymphs of great beauty, thwarted loves, invaded gods, intense feelings, shattered fates cross and choreograph the field of the exhibition. However, the result is a great calm, mixing silence and night with very familiar universal elements: rain, rainbow, laurel tree and an absolute desire to fly. All this is placed under the protection of a blinding and abstract sun.

Like the author, the artists focus on the causes of the change of form, on the phenomenon itself or on its consequences. With its presentation of the origin of the world and beings, Ovid offers to Detanico / Lain the possibility of a territory where the storytelling can be combined with the one of the ellipse.

ma



**martine
aboucaya**

5 rue sainte anastase
75003 paris
tel 331 4276 9275
martineaboucaya.com

List of works :

- SUN, 2019

triptych
gold leaf on wood
150 x 153 cm
unique work

*... and went inside the home
of the father he was not sure about,
he instantly set out to make his way
into his father's presence, but then stopped
some distance off. He could not continue
moving any closer to that brilliant light.
Wrapped in purple robes, Phoebus was sitting
on a throne sparkling with bright emeralds.
To his right and left stood Day, Month, and Year,
Ages and Hours, spaced equally apart...*

- ICARE, 2019

laser cut wood (oak)
set of 6 elements (1m x 4cm each)
dimensions variable
unique work

*... His close approach
to the fierce Sun softened the fragrant wax
which held his wings in place. The wax melted.
He flapped his naked arms, but since he had
no oar-like wings, he failed to catch the air.
While his mouth was screaming his father's name,
his cries were drowned out by the sky-blue sea
which takes its name from him...*

- DAPHNÉ, 2019

laser cut wood (oak)
set of 33 elements (1m x 4cm each)
dimensions variable
unique work

*... Destroy this beauty which has brought too much delight!"
Scarcely has she made this plea, when she feels
a heavy numbness move across her limbs,
her soft breasts are enclosed by slender bark,
her hair is changed to leaves, her arms to branches,
her feet, so swift a moment before, stick fast
in sluggish roots, a covering of foliage
spreads across her face...*

- DANAÉ, 2019

animation color, sound
digital file QuickTime
edition of 5

*... Jupiter disguised—
first as a satyr, when he filled the womb
of beautiful Antiopé with twins,
then as Amphitryon, when he took you,
Alcmene, a girl from Tiryns, and then
when he tricked Danaé as a shower of gold...*

- IRIS, 2019

installation
animation color, silent and white book
digital file QuickTime
edition of 5

*...Iris, most faithful bearer of my words,
go quickly to the languid halls of Sleep.
Tell him to send Alcyone a dream
in the image of Ceyx, who is dead,
to let her know the truth about his fate."
Juno spoke. Iris put on a garment
with a thousand colours and then, tracing
her curved arc across the heavens, made for
the home of Sleep, concealed beneath the clouds,
as Juno had commanded...*