

ENGLISH

GALLERIA CONTINUA

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PALOMA VAUTHIER

METANOVA

08.04.2022 - 07.05.2022

GALLERIA CONTINUA is pleased to present, in the gallery's new *Carte Blanche* space dedicated to young artists, *METANOVA*, an exhibition by Paloma Vauthier.

METANOVA revolves around the theme of the artist's bodily transformation through the pole dance, from human to monstrous hybrid, a fantastic creature characterized by traits that flow from the organic into the artificial and cybernetic. In parallel to physical mutation, the artist explores different means of expression, ranging from performance, to video, to photography.

The title of the exhibition is linked to a radical and explosive transformation that generates a new and uncontainable object, akin to the light energy released following the powerful stellar explosion called "supernova". The prefix "meta-" refers to the change that the artist undergoes in the context of her practice, and to the relationship of the works with the metaverse, understood as an artificial imaginary world, a virtual space populated by avatars that are themselves products of transfiguration and metamorphosis.

Metamorphosis, the central concept of the exhibition, is considered a transcendental phenomenological procedure, through which the subject reaches the constitution of a new self, which is the unconscious product of a process whose origin is deliberate. If the desire for metamorphosis arises from the will of the subject, the metamorphic

process frees itself from conscious reason and moves into the dimension of the Dionysian. It breaks every attempt at control and generates unpredictable and uncontrollable results: a supernova.

In the performance entitled *METANOVA*, this disruptive singularity is staged by the artist through pole dance. This seductive and hypnotic practice is chosen by the artist by virtue of the rotational movement that characterizes it, which loosens mental control over body and psyche, "as if the pole were the medium allowing to abandon the earthly body and fly away to new aesthetic and physical territories." This dimension is identified with the metaverse and it symbolizes the artificial and cybernetic component of human experience, as opposed to our organic nature. It is between these two worlds that metamorphosis takes place.

The visitor attends as a passive spectator, in a certain sense intrusive: his presence is almost inappropriate. Finding oneself in front of an intimate and private reality, while being invited to witness it, generates a disturbance that has a perturbing voyeuristic connotation, resulting from the collision of the sphere of the forbidden with that of the legitimate. The issue of voyeurism is addressed explicitly, fragmenting the live performance into a double film transcription, which reveals the hypocrisy inherent in considering one disturbing and abnormal, and the other totally admitted. *Fric Show* portrays a post-metamorphosis phase, three

figures who have reached a state of total human-cybernetic hybridization, three creatures now totally immersed in the metaverse. The metamorphic process has however no predetermined point of arrival: its non-linear nature can be represented graphically by a spiral, which constantly returns on itself without reiterating. Metamorphosis is eternal, and every moment of it is unrepeatably. Pole dance is its perfect interpretation, with its rotating gestures around a fulcrum that are cyclical but at the same time unique.

The character of the eternal return of metamorphosis is also represented in the artist's photos. The polaroids emerge from a metamorphic process that moves from digital to analog, folding in on itself but continuing to evolve. These repeated transmutations, carried out by the artist on the photograph, underline the unconscious character of the result, altered in an unpredictable way by each layer of processing to which the original image is subjected: "it is a transformation of the cybernetic towards the organic, a return to the primitive, the beginning of a new cycle."

Paloma Vauthier is an actress, artist and videographer living in Paris. At 18 years old, she joined the ranks of the Kourtrajmé school, under the direction of the artist JR. For several years the artist has discovered the discipline of pole dance, and has been fascinated by the artistic potential of this practice, trying to combine the exercise with her artistic research. Paloma Vauthier was exhibited at the CENTQUATRE cultural center, as part of the *Hard-Corps* exhibition curated by José-Manuel Gonçalves, with a work that brings together three videos under the name of *Fric Show*.

In her career as an artist, Paloma Vauthier played a co-starring role in the film *Memory Box* directed by Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, which was nominated for the 71st Berlin International Film Festival.