



PRESS RELEASE

PRETTY CHIMERAS FIRST SOLO SHOW BY NATHALIE PIROTTE AT HUSK GALLERY 12 JANUARY – 22 FEBRUARY 2020

Husk Gallery has the pleasure to present the first exhibition of the Belgian artist Nathalie Pirotte at Rivoli Brussels. *Pretty Chimeras* proposes two series of recent paintings, portraits of women, masked with animal heads or whose eyes are intentionally covered with paint or integrated in the background.

The image of female figures is the theme of the work of Nathalie Pirotte. Specialised in masked portraits, she likes to play with the media in a copy-paste and recycling sense. The artist draws her inspiration from Google, movies, 'primitive' art, animals and plants, pink colours, lace and hybridisations of all kinds. This is not only a research on identity, but also on the medium of painting in the era of Photoshop. Oscillating between surrealism and pop culture, mythology and porn, her figurative work on the issue of the seduction of painting takes the form of the seduction as a woman.

Nathalie Pirotte depicts anonymous seductive women which she transforms into subjects by literally erasing their face with paint. In *Effigies*, her intriguing series of women with animal heads, she clearly explores and interrogates the female stereotypes. These masks of rabbits, hinds or felines are reminiscent of the Chimera, an imaginary creature compounded of incongruous parts. By adding these animal heads as stickers to the bodies, she creates a woman's identity which is hoped for, but at the same time illusory or impossible to achieve. The absence of the face/eyes induces the spectator to a more pictorial reading, going from the face to the context. It increases the focus on the intimate, secret side of the subject.

In *Tag Rose* (2019), which belongs to the recent *Tags* series, the aim is to use high contrast to distance the basic figurative image of a woman, depicted in the background as a painting in black and white, by the presence of sensual pictorial matter, pink impasto brushstrokes applied by the painter as abstract signs, creating a new space. The layers, images of different types, are superimposed and here again end up making a canvas by hybridisation. Tags or highlights, abstract signs, impose themselves on a relatively smooth image representing a woman as a memory of the action of the author, another woman.

Created with the gaze of a female artist, her women portraits feature both eroticism and feminism. Depicting beautiful and apparently strong women, the construction of the female identity stands at the centre of Nathalie Pirotte's artwork.

Nathalie Pirotte (°1965, Albertville) lives and works in Brussels. In 1989 she completed her Master in Painting and 3D Research in La Cambre, Brussels. In the past years her work has featured in solo shows in Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, and she has also taken part in numerous group exhibitions in Belgium and abroad. Her work can be found in the following collections: Communauté française de Belgique, Unisys, BSB (B), Town of Ettelbruck (GDL), City of Dudelange (GDL), City of Luxembourg (GDL), Sanrio (It) and in private collections in Europe, the United States and Australia. Nathalie Pirotte is also working as a painting teacher at the Arlon Academy of Fine Arts in Belgium.

Opening

Sunday 12 January 2020 from 3 to 7 pm

Opening hours

Gallery opening hours during exhibitions > Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1 to 6 pm

Rivoli Open Sunday > 26 January 2020 from 2 to 6 pm

For further inquiries: info@huskgallery.com – Tel. +32 478 52 16 46 – www.huskgallery.com

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Facebook: [@huskartgallery](https://www.facebook.com/huskartgallery) – Instagram: [@huskgallery](https://www.instagram.com/huskgallery)

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