

Exposition du 22 avril au 06 juin 2015  
Vernissage mercredi 22 avril à partir de 18h30

# VIRGILE ITTAH

« *And this new sleep* »





UNTITLED, (FOR MAN WOULD REMEMBER EACH MURMUR),  
MIXED WAX, MARBLE DUST, FABRIC, INSTALLATION : 1200 X 180 X 365 CM, 2012–2013



UNTITLED, (FOR MAN WOULD REMEMBER EACH MURMUR) – DETAIL

« De même que les abysses de la mer demeurent toujours calmes, quelle que soit la fureur de la surface, de même, l'expression des visages chez les Grecs est celle d'une âme grande et posée, quelles que soient les passions qui l'animent » notait l'historien d'art M. Winckelman à propos de la sculpture antique grecque. Virgile Ittah, jeune artiste diplômée du Royal College of Art de Londres, explore quant à elle dans ses sculptures en cire & poudre de marbre - qui rappellent la sculpture classique - les émotions qui se traduisent dans la physionomie. Dans les ambrotypes<sup>1</sup> *And this new sleep*, Virgile Ittah pousse le procédé en photographiant les différentes expressions faciales données à un portrait sculpté afin d'humaniser la sculpture sans pour autant lui accorder d'identité.

Virgile Ittah tend à créer un nouveau territoire où l'identité n'est plus le référent. D'ailleurs, comme le pensait Nietzsche et Freud, il y a en l'homme autant de consciences qu'il y a de forces plurielles (Freud parlait de pulsions) qui constituent le corps. Ainsi, lorsque Virgile Ittah mêle figuration et abstraction, il s'agit pour elle de s'affranchir de ce qui définit, identifie, limite : «Je est un autre».

Si *For a man would remember each murmur*, évoque un homme déraciné qui essaie de se souvenir de sa langue d'origine, la forme quasi abstraite qui le soutient n'incarne-t-elle pas son essence ? Dans *Untitled*, la forme abstraite est totale, nue, porteuse d'un sens intrinsèque. Ici, la matière en prenant le dessus sur le signifié touche alors à l'universalité.

Virgile Ittah est née en 1981 à Paris. Elle est diplômée du Royal College of Art de Londres en sculpture. Son travail a été rapidement exposé et honoré, que ce soit par la Saatchi Gallery, le Catlin Prize ou la Royal British Society of Sculptors.

Virgile Ittah vit et travaille à Londres.

<sup>1</sup> : Le collodion humide est une technique photographique datant de la seconde moitié du 19<sup>ème</sup> siècle, permettant d'obtenir soit un négatif ou bien un positif appelé alors «Ambrotype» (pièce unique). Grâce à cette technique le photographe maîtrise la totalité du processus, de la fabrication des chimies photographique au résultat final.

The art historian J. J. Winckelman wrote about Greek antique sculptures : «As the sea abyss always remain calm, whatever the agitation on the surface, so are the faces' expressions of the Greek which always show a big and composed soul, whatever the passions they may be driven by». On her side, Virgile Ittah, who is a young artist graduated from the Royal College of Art of London, explores emotions which are translated into facial appearance, through her sculptures made of wax and powders of marble and which are reminiscent of classic sculpture. With *And this new sleep Ambrotypes*<sup>1</sup> , Virgile Ittah insists by photographing the different facial appareances given to a sculpted portrait in order to humanize the sculpture without giving it an identity though.

Virgile Ittah is trying to create a new territory where identity would not be the referent anymore. Besides, according to Nietzsche and Freud, man's body is made of as many consciousnesses as plural strengths (Freud would talk of drives). Thus, when Virgile Ittah mixes representation and abstraction, she aims at freeing herself from what defines, identifies and limits : «I is an other one».

When *For a man would remember each murmur*, is about an uprooted man trying to remember his language of origin, couldn't we think that the use of an almost abstract form embodies its intrinsicality? With *Untitled*, the abstract form is total and nude and carries an intrinsic meaning. Then, as the material gets the upper hand on the signified, it becomes universal.

Virgile Ittah was born in 1981 in Paris. She graduated in sculpture from the Royal College of Art of London. Her work was rapidly shown and honoured, either by the Saatchi Gallery or the Catlin Prize or the Royal British Society of Sculptors. Virgile Ittah lives and works in London.

<sup>1</sup> : The ambrotype, also known as a collodion positive in the UK, is a positive photograph on glass made by a variant of the wet plate collodion process. Like a print on paper, it is viewed by reflected light. Like the daguerreotype, which it replaced, and like the prints produced by a Polaroid camera, each is a unique original that could only be duplicated by using a camera to copy it.



AND THIS NEW SLEEP,  
AMBROTYPE, 60 X 50 CM, 2014



AND THIS NEW SLEEP,  
AMBROTYPE, 60 X 50 CM, 2014



AND THIS NEW SLEEP,  
AMBROTYPE, 60 X 50 CM, 2014



# VIRGILE ITTAH

Born in 1981 in Paris.  
Works & lives in London.

## EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2015 La Galerie Particulière, Brussels, Belgium  
Walking on the beach imitating sand, Hus Gallery, London: Virgile Ittah + Kai Yoda  
A woman's hand, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK.  
Art 15, Lychee one gallery, Virgile Ittah + Kai Yoda, London, UK  
Dallas art fair, Hus galleries, Texas, US
- 2014 Here's looking at you, Lychee One Gallery, London: Virgile Ittah + Kai Yoda  
This has nothing to do with politics, The function room, London, UK,  
Curated by Jack Tan.  
Royal British Society of Sculptor, London, UK, Bursary award 2014 exhibition.  
Catlin Prize Exhibition, London, UK  
New Order II, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 2013 New Sensations, Channel 4/ Saatchi Gallery, London, UK  
The Open West, Cheltenham gallery + museum, UK, in collaboration with Kai Yoda  
RCA Show, Royal college of art, London, UK
- 2012 Camera Clara Prize, Gallery UPP, Paris, France  
Inspiring Matter, Gulbenkian Gallery, London, UK  
Fair, Edinburgh college of art, Edinburgh, UK

## EDUCATION

2011 - 2013 MA, Sculpture, Royal College of Art, London

## AWARDS / RESIDENCIES

- 2014 Awarded of a bursary from the Royal British society of Sculptors, UK.  
Selected for Catlin guide and Catlin Prize Exhibition, London, UK.
- 2013 Selected for New Sensations, Channel 4 and Saatchi Gallery, London, UK.  
Camera Clara prize, 2nd prize, France



UNTITLED, MIXED WAX, MARBLE DUST, EARTH PIGMENT, 53 X 39 X 40 CM, 2014



REGARDING THE PAIN OF THE OTHER,  
MIXED WAX, MARBLE DUST, ANTIQUE CHURCH CHAIR, INSTALLATION : 450 X 260 CM, 2013



JOANNA / SHIRO,  
MIXED WAX, MARBLE DUST, EARTH PIGMENT, LATEX, PAINT, GEL, WOOD, 169 X 32 X 30 CM, 2014

## INFORMATIONS PRATIQUES

du mardi au samedi de 11h à 19h et sur rendez-vous

[www.lagalerieparticuliere.com](http://www.lagalerieparticuliere.com)

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