



*Jak papieros pod prochami Wilna (Like a cigarette under the ashes in Vilnius)*  
oil on canvas, 200x160cm, 2018

Galerie Dix9 is pleased to introduce

# KOSMOS

## Karine Hoffman

17.11. 2018 – 16.02. 2019

**GALERIE DIX9** Hélène Lacharmoise

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# KOSMOS

**A singular figure in the French pictorial scene, Karine Hoffman feeds her work with traces of ghostly memories, which she translates on the canvas in an almost mystical outburst. For her first exhibition at Galerie Dix9, the artist presents a body of recent paintings constructed like impossible-to-solve equations, riddles, fragments of investigation, referring to places, forgotten lives, from Warsaw to Vilnius.**

Karine Hoffman herself defines her painting as «a filter that reveals what has fallen into oblivion, a place foreign to myself where everything can emerge: a complex place, a large toy chest never ceasing to surprise me”. Her painting occupies an unusual place. Indeed, as a Borgesian work, and in the complex line of German painters of the twentieth century, as in the *the Disasters of the War* by Goya, Karine Hoffman seizes a history of art characterized by a taste for black romanticism, pictorial enigma, personal narrative.

It frees itself from the traditional opposition between classical and modern by considering the immemorial links of a questioning on the individual. Karine Hoffman's vocabulary, full of references to the history of Europe and personal stories, is constructed by serendipity.

It feeds on Walter Benjamin 's philosophy and works by Bruno Schulz \*, inscribing her work in the reflections and concerns of MittelEuropa, but also the experience of the barbarism of totalitarianism (Nazism and Stalinism), of which some members of her family were the victims.

The exhibition echoes the novel *Kosmos* - the very form of the anti-novel - by Witold Gombrowicz. From thin clues, the Polish writer constructs a story that seems like a police serial, an investigation made of errors, fantasies. A work that is, in his own words, «an attempt to organize chaos.» Karine Hoffman tries through pictorial practice to organize her own chaos. Personal and collective stories resurface by rebounds, symbols and evocations. Each element paints, each situation is a sign of an impossible quest, of a search tormented by oblivion. The objects /paintings that she calls «transitional objects» and «objects-tools», create a disturbing pictorial universe. Indeed, it is the individual consciousness, the collective heritage and the official history that offend themselves of their own shortcomings.

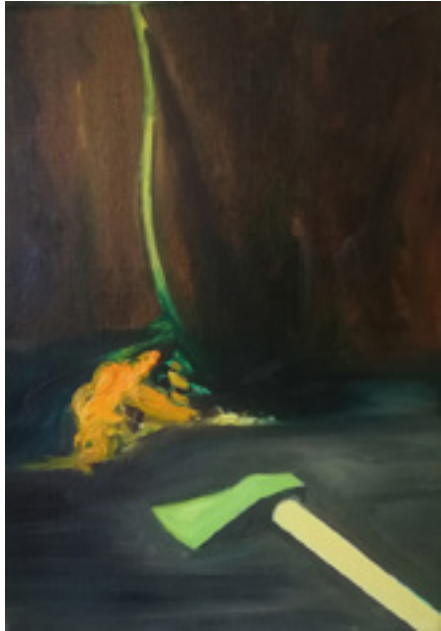
Her work is a transfiguration of a three-dimensional universe (evoking installations) questioning the pictorial act through the use of different interventions and techniques (scratching, accumulation, transparency) working to suggest

alternately smooth, heavy matter, smoke. The net object rubs the gestural blur. Nervous graffiti rubs with the floating of a stormy sky. The acid colors, green and yellow fluorescent, punctuate the nocturnal or twilight space - day and night coexist by evoking an occult, goyesque light. Shapes appear as residues of thought, they build a world out of field where the action seems suspended. As in *Jak papier pod nextmi wilna (like a cigarette under the ashes of Vilnius)* where a fake seems to have been used for a crime of which we do not know the motivation.

This inquiry transfigures the experience of sensation. Karine Hoffman's cosmos / Kosmos is an immense being, an infinite, intangible creature of which all parts are connected, as a sketch of a scientific approach to an unfathomable mystery. These parties are subject to the same laws and answer each other. They have their own language: the language of painting.

Instead of claiming to provide definitive answers, definitive affirmations, Karine Hoffman's painting reveals the impossibility of omniscient knowledge, and the eternal quest for knowledge of the ego through experience.

\* Polish writer, literature critic and artist (1892-1942)



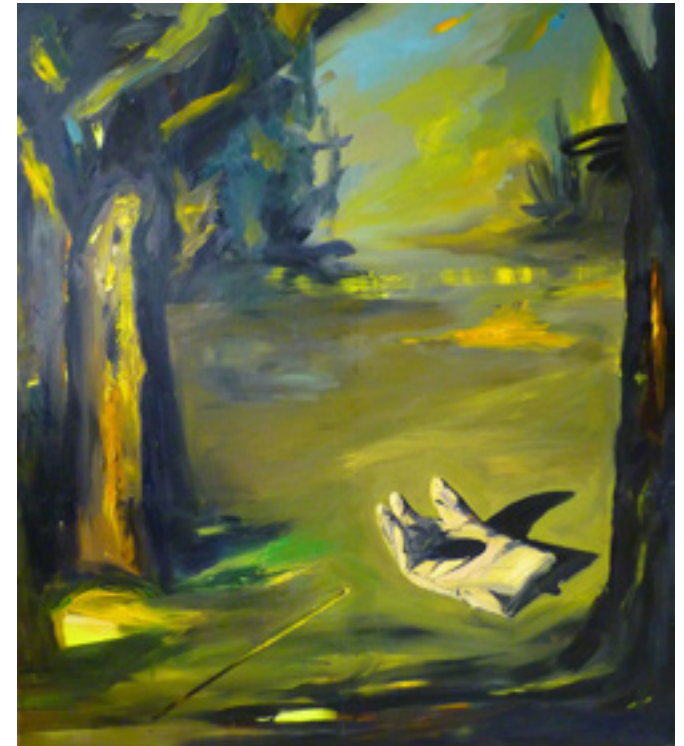
Residual Trails II  
33 x 46 cm, 2017



*I want you my Polish guy*  
oil on canvas, 35 x 27 cm, 2018



*Remains*  
oil on canvas, 195 x 130 cm, 2018



*After Lunch*  
oil on canvas, 170 x 180 cm, 2018

# BIOGRAPHY

Born in Paris in 1974, Karine Hoffman lives and works in Paris.

## Education

Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts, Paris, France  
Casa de Velazquez, Madrid, Spain (2002-2004)

## Awards

Prize of Colas Foundation, France (2006)  
Special Prize of the jury, Saint Grégoire (2005)  
Prize of painting Georges Wildenstein(2004)  
Casa de Velasquez, Madrid (2002)

## Solo Exhibitions

### 2018

Untitled Miami, Galerie Dix9, USA  
*Kosmos*, Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise, Paris

### 2016

Mémorial in Caen, France, in collaboration with Didier Durmarque, philosopher  
University Ruckstande, Leipzig, DE

### 2015

*Les Absents*, curator Jean-Michel Marchais, Le Loft, Ivry sur Seine, France

### 2013

*Beneath the blue*, Phantom Projects Contemporary, Troye, France

### 2011

*Jacob's ladder*, galerie Françoise Besson,

### 2009

*Fantasmagorie*, galerie Iragui, Moscow

### 2008

*Die berauschten Kampagnen*, galerie Maud Piquion, Berlin, DE

Colas Foundation for contemporary art, Boulogne, France

### 2006

*One Day*, St Grégoire art center, France

### 2005

*Stop Madrid*, Maison des Arts et de la Culture, Créteil, France

Galerie JTN, Ministry of Culture, Paris

### 2004

*Périple des illusions*, French Institute, Madrid, Spain

*Memoria Viva*, French Institute, Valence, SP

## Group Exhibitions

### 2018

Code art fair, Copenhagen, Galerie Dix9  
*Continent des anecdotes*, Hotel Europa, curator Théo Mario Coppola, galerie Felix Frachon, Brussels, Belgium

### 2017

*Les secrets du Docteur F*, curator Théo-Mario Coppola, galerie Underconstruction  
*Hotel Europa*, Art Vilnius, curator Théo-Mario Coppola, Lituanie  
*Peindre*, Museum of Fine Arts, Bourbonne les Bains, curator Viviane Zenner



### 2016

*Lodz in Translation*, galerie Pracownia Portretu, Poland

*Collections, regards sur la planète*, curator Anne Malherbes, DDevents, Paris

### 2014

*Tremendous dynamite/* Salon Huhnenbergen, Berlin, galerie PPC

### 2013

*Ligeia*, galerie PPC, Troye, France  
*Extravaganza*, galerie PPC, Troye France

### 2012

*Tout s'éteindra*, curator Gwillerm Perthuis, galerie Françoise Besson, Lyon, France

### 2010

*Collection III*, Salomon Foundation for Contemporary Art, Alex, France

### 2009

Art Moscou, galerie Iragui  
*Regard retrospectif*, French Institute Madrid

### 2008

SOFF, galerie Iragui, London, UK  
*Les Malheurs de Sophie*, galerie Nivet Carzon, Paris  
Génération 70, galerie Iragui, Moscow  
Salon de Montrouge, France

### 2007

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*Girls Insights*, galerie Defrost, Paris  
*Voyages*, Contemporary art center, Meymac, France

Sichuan art museum, China

### 2006

Colas Foundation, France  
*Les nouveaux romantiques français*, Irkoutsk museum, Moscow, Russia

### 2005

*10 Peintres*, galerie du JTN, Paris

### 2004

Villa Lemot, contemporary art center, Gétiné, France

Casa de Velazquez, Paris, France  
Casa de Velazquez, Madrid, Spain

### 2003

*Anniversario*, Casa Velazquez, Madrid  
Salon de Montrouge, France  
Monastery of San Cugat del Vallès, Spain  
Museo de Amédéo da Suzat, Portugal

### 2001

SIAP de Valogne, Drac Haute Normandie, FR

### 2000

Museum of Fine Arts, Boulogne sur Mer, FR