

Galerie Dix9 is pleased to introduce

Claudia Tennant

**THE NILE IS LONGER AND MORE
ROMANTIC THAN THE AMAZON**

26.03 – 14.05.2022

opening Saturday March 26, 5pm – 9pm

GALERIE DIX9 Hélène Lacharmoise

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Tuesday- Friday 2pm-7pm, Saturday 11am - 7pm and upon appointment
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Le Nil est plus long et plus romantique que l'Amazonie
oil and acrylic on canvas, crochet, 120x300 cm, 2022

THE NILE IS LONGER AND MORE ROMANTIC THAN THE AMAZON

A crocodile-witness, little kaki scouts, burning news, women soldiers. For her first solo exhibition at Galerie Dix9, South African artist Claudia Tennant delivers a series of striking paintings with dark and shimmering accents. As solar as they are enigmatic, as macabre as they are drolatic, these large formats transport us into an ambiguous and inner universe, haunted by a global history with complex ramifications, with terrible scenarios, at the heart of which is Africa.

A long history punctuated by kingdoms that are made and broken, expeditions, territorializations and trophies, in front of which her prowess consists in louvering in the matter memorialization, to meander among legends and deeds, to build up over time, a codex, another history book, a survival manual almost. Thus she gives body and life in Mino (Our Mothers) and Nawi, to the women warriors who constituted the elite unit of king Gezo and the empire of Dahomey in the nineteenth century. Elsewhere, she restores to the tsetse all the aura and monumentality that are due to it. She draws a twirling cable supposed to connect continents... The figures on the foot refer to the heroes of yesterday and the day before, some occulted, others overestimated, but all wear masks and look like puppets. Names and phrases resonate colloquially and their crossover teases the mind. In this theatre, we wonder who is talking and where.

Although Claudia Tennant's work is well documented, well-informed and critical, it is striking by her sense of humour and vitality. She is wary of the images that are supposedly shared, and knows that wanting to paint Africa too well is a risky undertaking. To distance the procession of learned and impressionist sources from which she inherited, she in turn caviared it. She finds in what she calls "simplified form" an immediacy of gesture and a freedom of tone that reconnect with the spirit of bad painting and free expression. Here we are talking about unfinished work, even in the overflow of painting, of voices and buried images that must be raised to the surface and dare to be pictured.



Nawi, oil on canvas, 114x162 cm, 2022



The Scouts, oil on canvas, 160x230 cm, 2022



I'm sorry, knitting, canvas, leather, acrylic, 200x200x40 cm,



Croc O Nil, oil on canvas, 60x180 cm, 2022

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1988 in Johannesburg, South Africa, Claudia Tennant lives and works in Paris

Education

Master of Fine Arts, Beaux-Arts de Paris (2014 - 2017)
ArtCenter College of Design (MFA), Los Angeles, USA (2016)
École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts Paris-Cergy, France (2009 - 2014)
Weissensee Kunsthochschule Berlin (Erasmus), Germany (2013)
National School of the Arts (option music), Johannesburg, South Africa (2004 - 2007)

Residencies

2022 Kinshasa Biennial (Yango Biennale), RDC
2020-2019 Capsule, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris
2015 Zone d'utopie temporaire, L'Amour (artist-run-space), Paris
2015 Rencontres - Festival Éclats, Caromb, France

Solo shows

2022

The Nile is longer and more romantic than the Amazon, Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise, Paris

2021

Waking the Dead, Cité Internationale des arts (cur. Karin Schlageter), Paris

2019

I & US, Premier regard (presented by par Jany Lauga), Paris

2018

It's Alive !, Cc's Dojo (artist-run-space), Gentilly, Paris

Group shows

2022

Kinshasa Biennial/ Yango Biennial (cur. Nadia Yala Kisukidi and Sara Alonso Gómez), Kinshasa, RDC

Artais exhibition, Paris

Oyo Ntondo Na Biso (carte blanche : Yango Biennale upon invitation by Marie Ann Yemsi), Palais de Tokyo, Paris

2021

Salon Globalisto, (cur. Mo Laudi) galerie Bonne Espérance, Paris

About Now, galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Dakar, Senegal

About Now, galerie Cécile Fakhoury, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

2020

Maison Contemporain, Paris

Parcours young graduates of Beaux-Arts (cur. Armelle Pradalier), galerie Berthet-Aitouarès, Paris

Crude Saturdays, TacTac Art Center, Brussels, Belgium

2019

Soum soum 3, Carbone 17, Paris

Round 11, Thunder Cage (cur. Romain Vicari), Paris

Street art, (cur. par Elsa Werth et Camila Oliveira Fairclough), rue Louis Délgrès, Paris

Éléments de langage III, (cur. Camila Oliveira Fairclough), Centre

Pompidou Acceleration Program, Paris

Festival 100 %, Grande Halle de la Villette, Paris

2018

Félicita 18, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Paris

Tendre jeudi, Confort Mental (cur. Thierry Leviez), Paris

2017

The Big Mosaic, Ibrahim's Khan (with atelier Dominique Gauthier - Beaux-Arts de Paris and Kimonos Art Center),

European Capitale of Culture 2017, Paphos, Cyprus

2016

Open Studios, ArtCenter College of Design (MFA exchange), Pasadena, Los Angeles

2015

Unbearable Lightness, Luis Leu, Karlsruhe, Germany

DWELL (cur. Azad Asifovich), galerie Mansart, Paris

YES TO ALL, Treize, Paris

Zone d'utopie temporaire (cur. Alice Bonnot), L'Amour, Paris

Festival Éclats, Caromb, France

Et après, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, galerie Placido, Ygrec, Paris

2014

18e Prix Antoine Marin (presented by Carole Benzaken), Arcueil, France

La vie c'est comme une dent, La Générale en Manufacture, Sèvres, France

2013

Blombos tot rooibos (France - South Africa Season, Ygrec, Paris)

Geschmack Vom Feinsten, Team Titanic, Berlin, Germany

2012

Mythologies Online, Polytechnic Museum, Moscow, Russia