

The Project

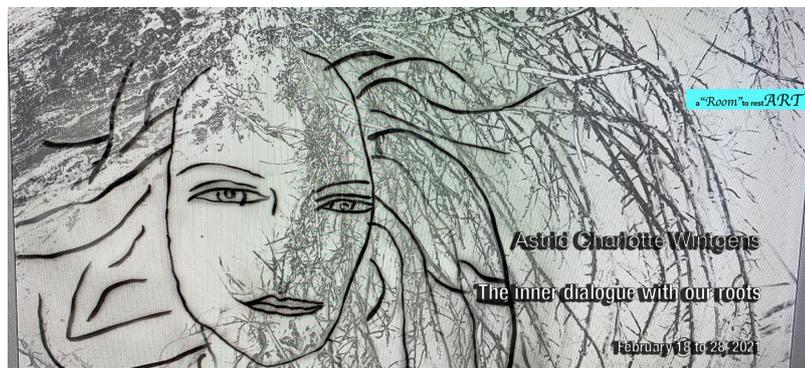


The inner dialogue with our roots

Virtual Solo exhibition by Astrid Charlotte Wintgens

Following the sanitary restrictions due to Covid-19, all cultural events have been reported and we had to adjust to new ways to promote art and allow it to be again in our lives, to re st/ART !

Entering in a 2021 still uncertain and hoping that the conditions will let us be able to organize soonest in presence exhibitions, we have planned a new online version art project to offer the possibility to artists, collectors, art lovers, to appreciate Art right from the comfort of their living room.



This exhibition, curated by **MG Paris**, follows the previous virtual group exhibition *Roots* that will be held 'in presence' in Paris as soon as the sanitary situation will allow it. With the aim of highlighting the artistic project of Astrid Charlotte Wintgens, her solo exhibition will focus on the artist 'world in between', going directly to her basic source of inspiration: the Tree and the Human being.

The artist proposes an inner dialogue in search of her own roots and traces, between the Tree, as the ancient symbol of life, through the skin like fine veins of the human faces, closely connected to our traces and life experiences. Clicking through the Rooms, you are introduced in Astrid Charlotte Wintgens' *Roots*. Take a virtual walk and have a look at the single paintings. In each painting the structure of the root is evident and often penetrates the female figure revealing itself as part of the existence, forming an undulating axis around the translucent root, thus circling the central narrative of the image.

Follow her creative process in each of the 4 Rooms : the single paintings focused on the Tree as a symbol, fragments of bark through the human face as a densely lined structure, the roots penetrating the female figure and other interesting artworks among which you can find some dedicated to the children's world, the Neapolitan Tombola, a Tribute to Charlotte Bara and others. The roots strike out from the whole pictures.

The fabulous textures and hues of her artworks result in powerful ideas. Astrid Charlotte's goal is to capture emotional and impressive moments on photo and in painting. The artist enjoys working with different materials and techniques, always curious for new ways: photography, drawing, painting, mixed media and collage sometimes reworked with the help of the traditional fabric printing technique of a bark fragment.

Roots

The tree, the ultimate ancient symbol of life, is the focus of the artistic examination in this series of works consisting of photography, drawing, painting, mixed media and collage. Rooting (past), growth (present), branching (future) and self-healing of injured bark by resin are, in a reduced formal language, parts of the creative process.

Both in the medium of collage and with the help of the traditional fabric printing technique of a bark fragment, the experimental forms repeatedly bring forth the origins, the root, as well as the outer shell, the bark. Fragments of bark form the framework for experimental collage techniques, in which the human face as a densely lined structure – the open portrait of a young woman – in recurring variations leads to an inner monologue with autobiographical traits.

The interpretative scope of the bark as a protective skin, shell, skin of life, vulnerability and much more reflects one's own state of mind. In an interplay of haptics and optics, a powerful, impulsive color scheme of mostly warm shades of red opens up a transcendental space that invites the recipient to determine their own position.

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Fragments of bark through the human face as a densely lined structure

A human face composed of sparse lines, whose facial features are reminiscent of those of a young girl, was created in a varied examination by drawing. Her melancholic gaze drifts laterally away from the viewer, looking into the distance as if lost in thought or dream. A gust of wind blows her hair back.

If it were not for the eyes, nose, mouth and contours of the face, the shape of the lines could be understood as a continuation of the roots that are underlaid in some works of the drawing. The portrait of the girl literally grows from the roots of the tree. At second glance, in a mysterious sketch, another portrait opens up in a side profile. Only the outlines are clear – the roots run through the skin like fine veins.

This opens up an autobiographical moment that documents, fleetingly and unintentionally, an intuitively conceived creative process. In search of its own roots and traces, this drawing of girlish figures was created in a light and flowing formal language reminiscent of the epoch of Classic Modernism (Matisse, Modigliani, Picasso).

Reworked in the medium of digital collage, the portrait drawings were underlaid with a bark fragment print. The transparency of the multiple branching of the bark effectively highlights the lifelines of a human being.

Artworks:

In Verbindung [In Connection], mixed media, 40 x 30 cm

Hommage to Robert Rauschenberg 2018, mixed media, 30 x 40 cm

The roots in the female figure

“Präsenz” [“Presence”], acrylic, photo, collage, 30 x 40 cm

The observer is confronted by a background in the shade of phthalocyanine green, thus conveying a feeling of vivid presence. The photo of an unknown person is digitally positioned onto the known structures of the root and overlays with smooth transparency the weight of the individual branches, which are distributed around the face like hair while also being reminiscent of veins through the delicate skin of the face. The roots strike out from the whole picture with abundant, flowing power that transforms into powerful energy. The surface of the skin looks so real that you could almost think you were looking at an example of indigenous peoples' body painting.

Presence, presentness is the title of the picture. The structure of the root penetrates the female figure and reveals itself as part of her existence.

“Vision”, photo, collage, 40 x 35 cm, 2019

In this photo collage, we once again encounter the young woman from the image “Presence”, who, in this work, stands with a clear and daring gaze firmly at the eye level of the viewer on a deep red background with a branched mass of roots. She seems to shoulder the heavy weight of the tree with a contrasting lightness. She carries the massive roots weightlessly, entering a new world without time and space.

Wise and visionary, she recognises her path and embarks on an indefinite journey toward new shores.

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"Seelenverwandt" ["Kindred Spirit"], drawing digitally edited 30 x 30 cm

The basis of this graphic in a square format is outline drawings of three female faces, which the artist created in the style of Classic Modernism (Matisse, Modigliani, Picasso), and which she has now edited digitally and placed in a new context that is extended to three different positions. The line work is characterized by sweeping lightness and, at the same time, precise interpretative confidence. The two three-quarter profiles are arranged in a close spatial community and are closely connected like sisters, while the third female figure emerges from the center in half profile and is depicted in an overlap facing away from the viewer. This woman, depicted in half profile, seems to be lost in herself. If one wanted to underlay the figures with emotional states, one could interpret "thoughtfulness" on the left, "satisfaction" on the right and "skepticism" below. The figures are connected by sweeping lines and their formal superimposition, allowing them to enter into a dialogue with themselves and ask questions about life.

Their spiritual kinship (as in the title of the work) could also be interpreted as "several souls in my breast", expressing the different perspectives of a single figure, possibly the artist herself. Fine but inescapable, like a natural grain, the roots of the tree run through the parchment-like surface as a symbol of the past, traces and life experiences. The outlines of the faces form an undulating axis around the translucent root, thus circling the central narrative of the image.

Other works

Here you find other interesting artworks dedicated to the children's world, a Tribute to Charlotte Bara and others. The roots strike out from the whole pictures.

The Neapolitan Tombola, 86 Summerwine, mixed media, 40x40cm, 2018

This work has been realized on the occasion of the Paris exhibition in 2018 curated by Monteoliveto Gallery dedicated to the Neapolitan Tombola, where the number 86, 'a puteca is the 'little shop'. The artist expresses this meaning through wine shops in southern France during a wine festival. Summerwine captures impressions of a wine fest in Sanary-sur-Mer, southern France.

The festival focuses on rosé wine and is also a good opportunity to explore local heritage and craftsmanship. I tried to combine my photographic experience in the charming Provençal street with a technique called mixed media. Here you add a layer of wax on top of your pictures and scratch it off or extend it in order to highlight certain aspects. Essential in my work is always the interplay of colors and emotions. In this case the pink/red rosé tone creates a feeling of joyfulness and lightness.