

Philippe Ramette

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15.11.24 → 21.18.24

Press release



Philippe Ramette
In Praise of procrastination, 2022
Patinated bronze, white Carrara
C marble, brass and wood
With base: 135,5 x 45,5 x 63,5 cm
Edition of 6 + 1 AP

Xippas Geneva

Rue des Sablons 6
1205 Geneva, Switzerland

Tuesday to Friday:
10am to 1pm and 2pm to 6.30pm
Saturday: 12pm to 5pm

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Opening on Friday, the 15th of November, from 6 pm to 9pm, on the occasion of La Nuit des Bains.

Xippas gallery is delighted to present Philippe Ramette' solo exhibition in Geneva.

In continuity with his previous works displayed in public spaces, Philippe Ramette once again reconvene his now-familiar silhouette through a series of sculptures. A bronze figure, a faithful small-scale replica of the artist, embodies the stages of introspection and doubt, essential to the creative process: a journey marked by questioning, relinquishment, and determination.

Rather than fixed objects, it expresses mental images, creating a scenario where the viewer is invited to project themselves, drawn in by the formal representation of the artist's inner states. At the same time, the works evoke the shared limitations of our human experience. The formalization of mental processes suggested by the titles gives rise to improbable postures, leading to irony, and at times, even absurdity. In *In Praise of imbalance* and *In Praise of Wandering*, the artist leans on emptiness with all the nonchalance that their titles imply.

Each sculpture is characterized by the artist's choice of stone and the variously coloured patinas, ranging from black to gold and green. They remind us of the sculptures from the 19th and 20th centuries that populate the public domain, but above all they evoke a timeless creative space that lends itself to all possible forms of reactivation.

The exhibition also features a series of drawings. This medium often serves as the starting point for a photographic or sculptural project, continuing the artist's exploration of the world around us. In Philippe Ramette's work, drawings play the role of schematic drafts for fleeting conceptual whims. They often represent a sort of crystallization of absurdist propositions, dreamlike notions where the laws of physics and logic no longer hold sway. By adopting a lighter approach while remaining guided by his same obsessions, he often combines his drawings with texts and takes constant pleasure in revealing the absurd with both humor and elegance. As in his work *La perte du sens* ("sens" in french could mean "meaning" as well as "direction"), the artist delights when, behind an apparently literal title, a second, more subtle interpretation quietly emerges.

The artist therefore feeds off of banal experience to expose its potentially uncanny cracks, or to propose extraordinary associations that serve to show the precariousness nature of the codes that govern our daily lives.

Born in 1961 in Auxerre in France, Philippe Ramette lives and works in Paris.

In 2024, his work was included in several group exhibitions in France: *Future is now* at Le Parvis in Tarbes, as well as *Complexe sportif, (en)jeu de courbes et courbatures* at Domaine de Chamarande. Several solo exhibitions have been dedicated to his work in France and abroad, most notably at Bonnisson Art Center at Rognes, France (2024), at Interface at Dijon, France (2023-2024), Hors cadre, Auxerre, France (2020), Le Voyage, Nantes, France (2018), Polygone Riviera, Cagnes-sur-Mer (2017), Centre régional d'art contemporain, Sète, France (2016), Espace Malraux, Chambéry (2016), Espace Le Portique, Havre (2012), MAMCO, Geneva (2008), and several French Institutes abroad: in Romania, Hong Kong, Spain, Japan... His work has also taken over public spaces in France, in the Polygone Riviera shopping center in Cagnes-sur-Mer (2017), in the Galeries Lafayette Haussmann shopping center in Paris (2014), and in the Jardin des Tuileries in Paris, during the Fiac Hors les murs (2012).

Public and private collections (selection): Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris), Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (Paris), MAC/VAL (Vitry-sur-Seine), MAMCO (Geneva), Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris), SMAK, Museum Van Hedendaage Kunst (Gand), Israel Museum (Jerusalem), Fondation Neuflyze (Paris), Société Générale (La Défense, France), Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, Musée d'Art Contemporain (Marseille), among many others.