

Esther Schipper

Etienne Chambaud

Expansion

October 19 – December 2, 2022



Etienne Chambaud, **Necknot**, 2022, bronze, 92 x 56 x 33 cm
Photo © Andrea Rossetti

Esther Schipper is pleased to announce the inaugural exhibition in our new Paris gallery, Etienne Chambaud's **Expansion**. Especially conceived for the space, **Expansion** is the artist's second solo exhibition with the gallery, after presenting **Inexistence** at Esther Schipper in Berlin in 2021. On view will be a sound installation and sculptures.

For Chambaud, an exhibition exists as a condition of contradictory states, as a site where things and beings could alternatively or simultaneously emerge, change or remain absent. The works in the exhibition share a certain tension between what can be experienced, seen, and known.

Entering the gallery, visitors will find the first two rooms at first nearly empty. A sound installation entitled **Syrinx** brings into the exhibition space the sound of multiple birds. Their intricate vocalizations, synthesized by artificial neural networks, are in a constant process of contamination and metamorphosis, as each bird's distinct voice is differently affected by another. The time of the exhibition, then, is a time of invention of new individuals, new species, new languages.*

Only a dead fox—or better, **A Dead Dead Fox**—also inhabits this space, placed on the floor among the technical equipment of **Syrinx**. In a contradictory gesture, the fox has been prepared by a taxidermist to appear dead, drawing attention to the conventional repression and denial of death in taxidermy, where the dead animals are often posed in a particularly “life-like” pose.

In the adjacent room, a new series of works entitled **Stases** combine found elements and 3D-printed materials. A further development of the artist's modified panel paintings, **Uncreatures**, presented as part of **Inexistence** in Berlin in 2021, the new series has a pronounced sculptural quality. Taking as point of departure, the found objects used to decorate and also to protect religious icons, known as an oklad or riza, Chambaud's

works suggest the uncovered surface has projected out through the openings in an amorphous shape, determined by digital simulations of specific organic or mineral growth patterns. Each of the works in the series is the result of an excessive computational and material development out of the void where an icon used to be.

In dialogue with the **Stases** works, a bronze sculpture from the artist's series **Necknot** is placed on the floor. Both organic and mathematical, it consists of an assemblage of severed bird's necks joined together in a continuous knot. Punctuating the space, glass sculptures from the series **Globes** are positioned to catch the light. The works contain and conserve the remains of objects and materials that were destroyed and transformed by the very process of their inclusion in the molten glass.

The exhibition coincides with Etienne Chambaud's major survey at LaM – Lille Métropole Musée d'art moderne, d'art contemporain et d'art brut, Villeneuve d'Ascq, which includes works from 1983 to 2022, and will be on view from October 7, 2022 through January 22, 2023. A comprehensive exhibition catalogue with texts by Etienne Chambaud, Tristan Garcia, Mihnea Mircea, Vincent Normand, and Filipa Ramos, in English and French, has been published by Dilecta and LaM.

Etienne Chambaud was born 1980 in Mulhouse, France. He studied at École cantonale d'art de Lausanne (ECAL), Villa Arson, Nice, and École nationale des Beaux-Arts (ENSBA), Lyon. Since 2018 he has been conducting a doctoral research in the SACRe program of PSL University, École Normale Supérieure and École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris. The artist lives and works in Paris.

Chambaud's solo exhibitions include: **Lâme**, LaM – Lille Métropole Musée d'art moderne, d'art contemporain et d'art brut, Villeneuve d'Ascq (2022–23); **Negative Knots**, La Kunsthalle Mulhouse, Mulhouse (2018); **Undercuts**, Forde, Geneva (2012); **Contre-Histoire de la Séparation**, CIAP, Vassivière (2010); **The Sirens' Stage**, David Roberts Art Foundation, London (2010); **Le Stade des Sirènes**, Kadist Art Foundation, Paris (2010); **Lo stato delle sirene**, Nomas Foundation, Rome (2010), and **Color Suite**, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2009).

Selected group exhibitions include: **Once Upon a Time**, FRAC Collection, Champagne-Ardenne (2022); **I am Nature – Of Vulnerability. Survival in the risk society: ROHKUNSTBAU 26**, Schloss Lieberose, Lieberose/Spreewald (2021); **When in Doubt, Go to a Museum**, City Museum of Ljubljana, Ljubljana (2021); **La Mêlée**, Galerie Artemisia, ENS Lyon, Lyon (2019); **Foncteur d'oubli**, Le Plateau – FRAC Île-de-France, Paris (2019); **IF THE SNAKE**, Okayama Art Summit 2019, Okayama; **Persona Grata**, MAC/VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine (2018); **Killed Negatives: unseen images of 1930's America**, Whitechapel Gallery, London (2018); **General Rehearsal**, MMOMA, Moscow (2018); **Los Multinaturalistas**, MAMM, Medellin (2017).

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