

LAFAYETTE ANTICIPATIONS

Fondation d'entreprise Galeries Lafayette



Press Kit

9 rue du Plâtre
F-75004 Paris

PRESS RELEASE

**Jean-Marie Appriou & Marguerite
Humeau**
Surface Horizon
17 June > 5 September 2021

The Lafayette Anticipations Fondation has invited Marguerite Humeau and Jean-Marie Appriou to imagine an original project that extends from the facade and the interior courtyard to all the exhibition spaces. Inspired by the building's unique architecture, the two artists have created an odyssey in the form of a new kind of garden.

Through several scenes evoking catastrophe, renewal, truce, cosmic times or otherworldly places, the scenario of the exhibition *Surface Horizon*, imagined by Marguerite Humeau, takes the form of a walk in which the visitor encounters these evocative landscapes. Composed of plants, greenhouses, sculptures and the presence of individuals gifted with "extrasensory" perceptions, this experience invites us to think about future worlds and to heal the present one.

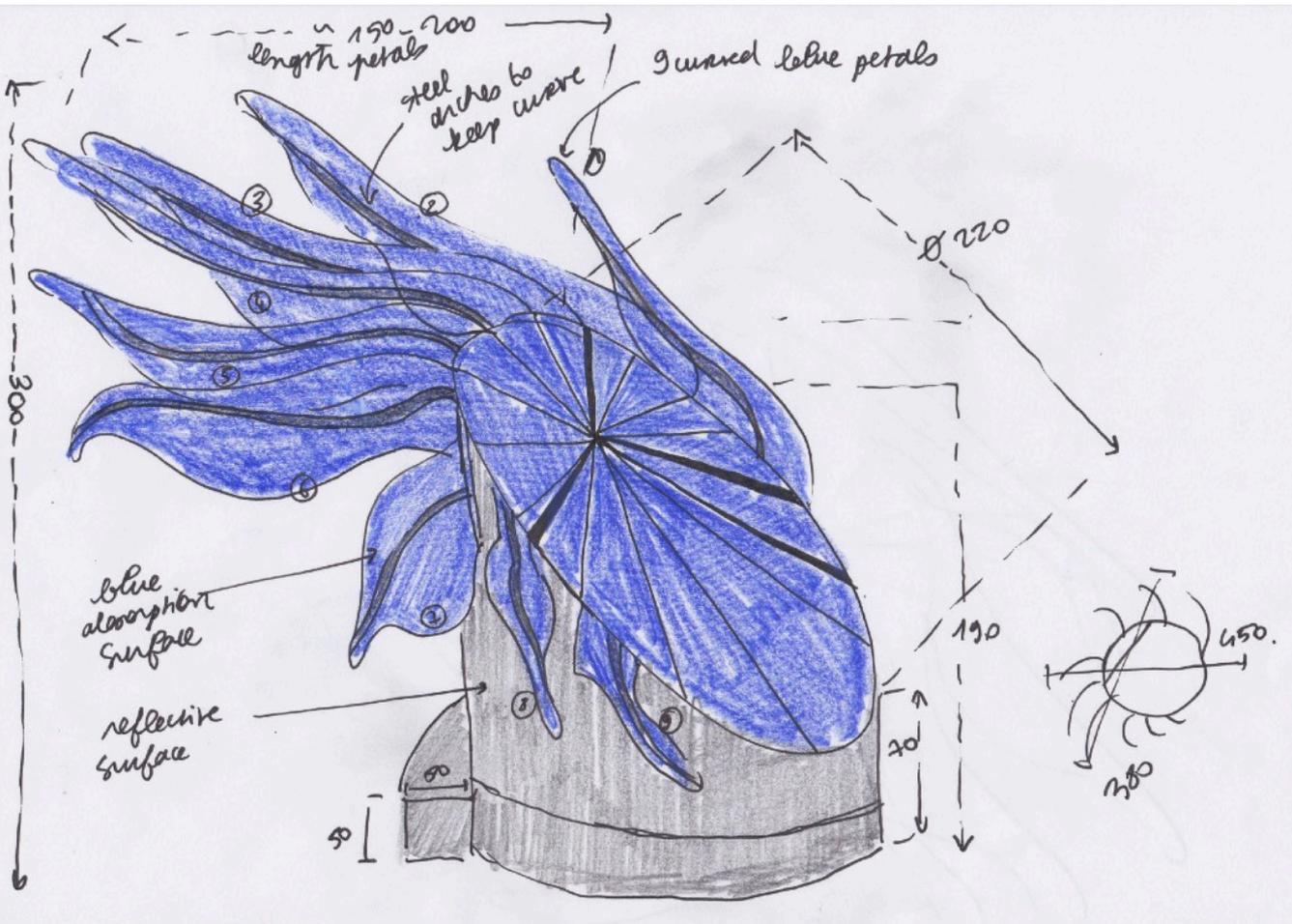
The exhibition is inspired by the ground and all the visible and invisible interactions that run through it, as well as the potentials it holds.

Drawing on the history of our relationship with the earth, the exhibition explores the contamination, depletion and burning of the earth caused by part of the human species. Against a territorial and exclusive vision, the artists perceive the earth as a place of exchange and interdependence. *Surface Horizon* is a fable, an opera, a science fiction composed of the two artists' mixed works.

Starting with a months-long study by Marguerite Humeau on the power of "weeds", which have become the main characters of this project, the exhibition celebrates marginalized species, feelings and stories. Marguerite Humeau deploys sculptures and "plant performances" inspired by the theory of signatures, an immemorial research on medicinal plants which sees in their silhouettes the shape of the parts of the human body that they can heal. **Jean-Marie Appriou's** scenes, from the myth of the human "gatherer-sower-gleaner" to the community of Japanese Ama, free-diving fisherwomen, turn human and non-human relationships into fantastic and dreamlike visions conducive to metamorphosis.



Jean-Marie Appriou, *The murmur* (detail), 2021
 Courtesy the artist and Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zurich / New York
 Photo : Stefan Altenburger



Marguerite Humeau, *Le Magicicada*, preliminary drawing, 2021
 Courtesy of the artist

PRESS RELEASE

The exhibition is a tribute to the "disappeared" of our physical and mental landscapes, those absent from our minds and our imaginations. How, at a time when the role of our humanity is to be reinvented, can we draw inspiration from these presences and praise the diversity of voices that make up our worlds? How, like the soil, can we become the humus of future life, the guarantee of the fertility of life, rather than its disappearance?

Surface Horizon proposes a hybridization between beings and sketches out a mythology of the present times, narratives nourished by sensibilities, attentions, and renewed dignities, reflecting on another world, perhaps still sleeping under our feet.

Commissaire : **Rebecca Lamarche-Vadel**

Public Program

A series of meetings, online, will allow to hear the voices of specialists on the issues of landscape, botany and biodiversity. Amongst others, **Gilles Clément**, horticultural engineer, landscape designer, writer, gardener and former teacher at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure du Paysage in Versailles (ENSP), **George Oxley**, author of *Manifeste Gourmand des plantes sauvages*, **Monique Mosser**, art and architecture historian, specialist in gardens, particularly in the 18th century, **Julia Graves**, herbalist, psychotherapist and homeopath, whose research has inspired Marguerite Humeau.

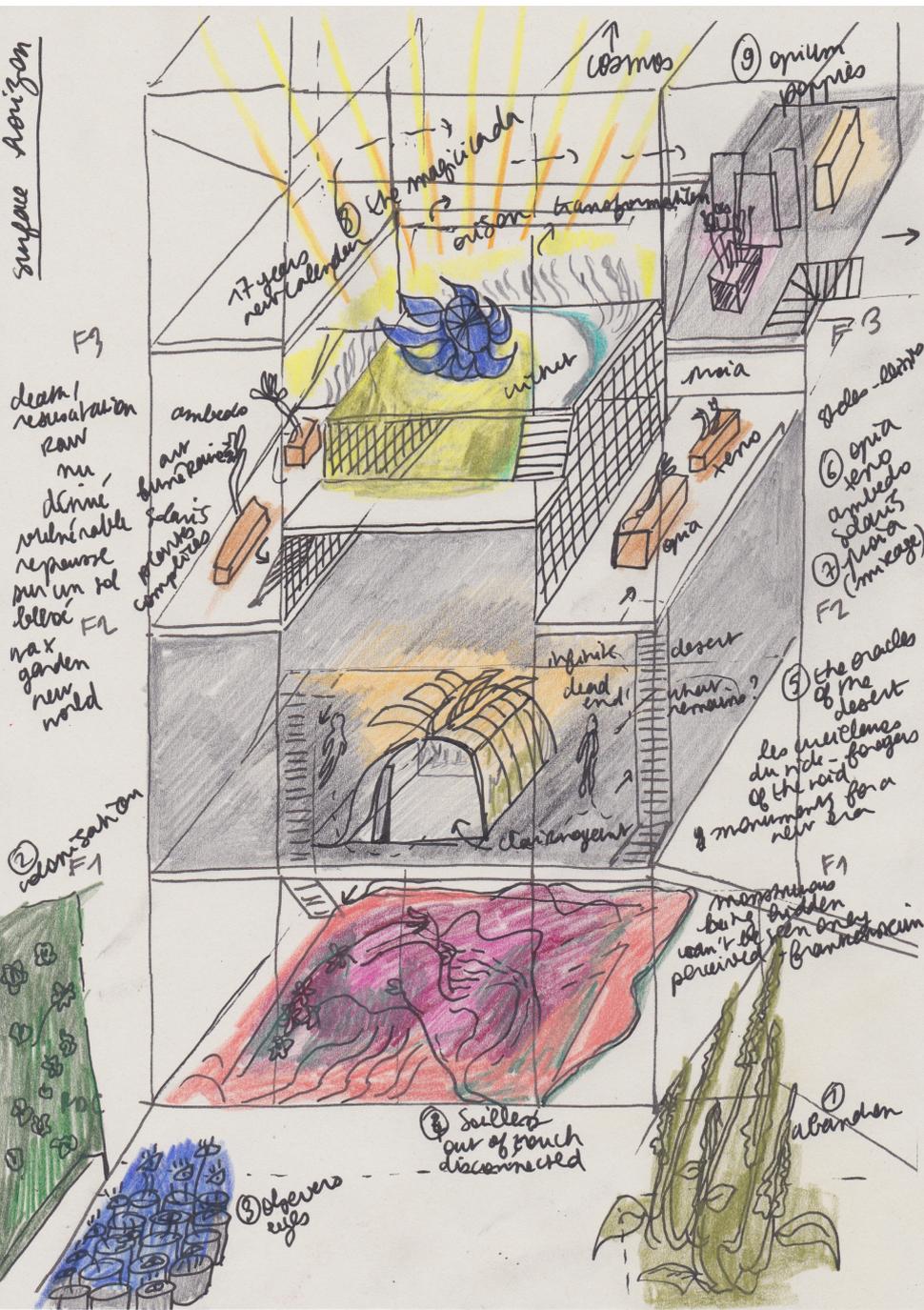
Editions

On the occasion of the exhibition, several books are to be published:

- A **booklet**, printed in risography in the Lafayette Anticipations publishing workshop, with notes on the works and an exclusive interview between Rebecca Lamarche-Vadel, director of Lafayette Anticipations, and the artists Jean-Marie Appriou and Marguerite Humeau (selling price 5 €)
- An **exhibition catalogue** in magazine format with text by Rebecca Lamarche-Vadel and a set of exhibition views
- An **artist's book** conceived with Marguerite Humeau which takes up the principle of the herbarium by listing the plants in the exhibition and their respective virtues. Text by Georges Oxley, biologist, biochemist, specialised in the life of soils and a great connoisseur of plants from a medicinal and food point of view.



Jean-Marie Appriou, *Les Ondes* (detail), 2021,
Courtesy of the artist



Marguerite Humeau, *Surface Horizon*, preliminary drawing, 2021
Courtesy of the artist

INTERVIEW

Jean-Marie Appriou, Marguerite Humeau and Rebecca Lamarche-Vadel

(extracts from the exhibition booklet)

Rebecca Lamarche-Vadel : How did the project start?

Marguerite Humeau : In 2020 I was working with Lafayette Anticipations on a residency workshop project as part of the public program that was interested in weeds and what that term means in the world we live in today. At the time, which was during the first lockdown, I was asking myself some rather fundamental sculptural questions related not only to production but also to the idea of living locally, and what that implies. I said to myself that, in the end, as with Jean-Marie's work, my projects were interested in the great spaces of time, well, in distant times, either prehistoric pasts or speculative futures, and then I had the impression, during the confinement, that in fact time and especially the future had been taken away from us, since it became impossible to project ourselves. I asked myself which beings I wanted to resurrect or just to make visible. Perhaps it was the beings that are under our feet and that are sometimes literally extinct, like certain plants, weeds that we want to get rid of. These beings have also disappeared from our mental landscapes because a weed, if you stop looking at it, it no longer exists. That's how the project started.

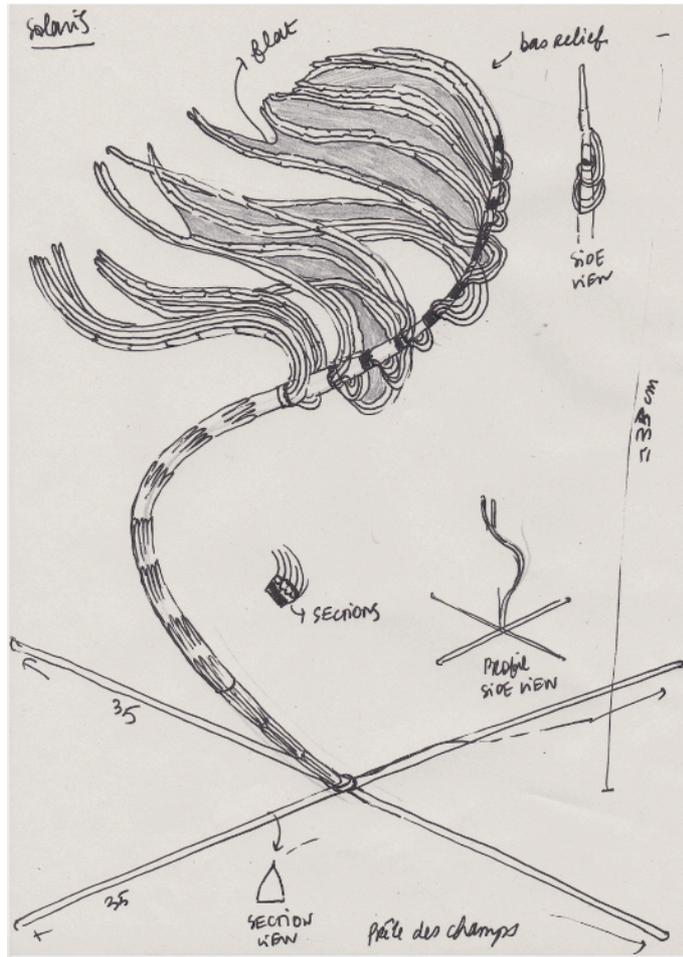
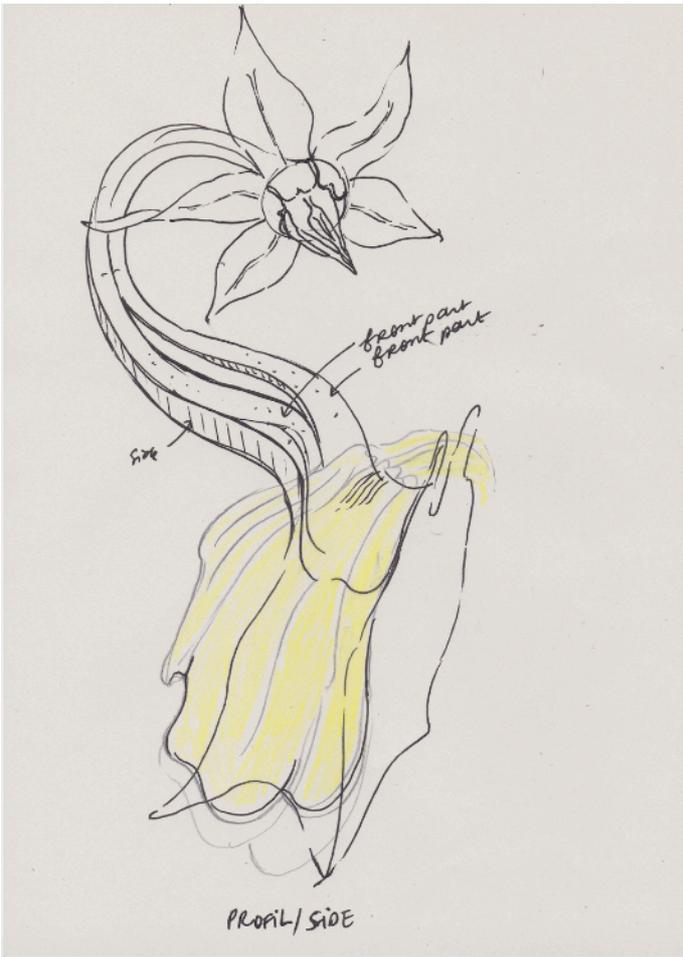
RLM : Can you tell us more about the title?

MH : For me this notion is both scientific and poetic. Surface Horizon is the term that defines soil profiles. When we were thinking about the title, we had in mind these beings on the fringes, these ghosts and where they might live, as one would imagine heaven or hell, somewhat mythical places. The ground is composed of different layers that experts call horizons, the first one is the organic horizon, it's the one you see when you walk in nature. It's where the things that die off are deposited. Just below it is the surface horizon where the dead turn into the living. It's invisible but ultimately it's the richest in living beings, so it seemed interesting to imagine this space as the new mythical place of our contemporary era.

Jean-Marie Appriou : That's exactly what it is, it's like a silt. When there was a flood and the clay was deposited on the fields, in ancient Egypt. Everything could grow on this land like humus in the forest.



Jean-Marie Appriou, *Ama*, (detail), 2021
 Courtesy of the artist



Marguerite Humeau, *Studies for Proia and Solaris*, 2021
 Courtesy of the artist

BIOGRAPHIES



Jean-Marie Appriou develops a reflection on sculpture by exploring materials such as aluminium, glass, bronze and clay in unconventional processes. From his experiments of an alchemical nature emerge human, animal and plant figures which meet and complement each other, giving rise to different scenarios. This fantastic and marvellous universe draws on a variety of inspirations, from Egyptian mythology to Pre-Raphaelite painting, from science fiction literature to cinema and comics.

His work has been exhibited at the Consortium Museum in Dijon, Central Park in New York at the invitation of the Public Art Fund, the Lyon Biennial, the Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, the Palais de Tokyo, Paris, the MAMVP, Paris, the Château de Versailles, the David Roberts Art Foundation, London, the Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, the Vienna Biennial, as well as in the galleries of Jan Kaps, Cologne, Simon Lee, New York, and Eva Presenhuber, Zurich; C L E A R I N G, New York and Brussels.

Jean-Marie Appriou is born in 1986. He lives and works in Paris.



The work of Marguerite Humeau explores the possibility of communication between worlds and the means by which knowledge is generated in the absence of evidence or through the impossibility of reaching the object of investigation. Humeau weaves factual events into speculative narratives, therefore enabling unknown, invisible, extinct forms of life to erupt in grandiose splendour. Combining prehistory, occult biology and science fiction in a disconcerting spectacle – the works resuscitate the past, conflate subterranean and subcutaneous, all the while updating the quest genre for the information age.

She received her MA from the Royal College of Art, London, in 2011. Solo exhibitions of her work have been held at New Museum, New York, US; Tate Britain, London, UK; Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich, CH; Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin, DE; Nottingham Contemporary, UK; Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR and C L E A R I N G, New York/ Brussels. Her work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including the High Line, New York, USA; Château de Versailles, FR; Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR; MAMVP, Paris, FR; Serpentine Galleries, London, UK.

Marguerite Humeau is born in 1986. She lives and works in London.

IN 2021

Upcoming exhibitions and festivals

3 > 6 June 2021

Festival

Closer Music

20 > 26 September 2021

Festival

Echelle Humaine

20 October 2020 > 2 January 2021

Exhibition

Martin Margiela



© Martin Margiela

TEAM

Lafayette Anticipations

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Aurélie Nahas, Administrative manager
Célia Lebreton, Administrative secretary
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Judith Peluso, Head technical
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Raphaël Raynaud, Head of the workshop
Elsa Coustou, Curator
Simon Gérard, Assistant curator
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Oksana Delaroff, Coordinator of cultural outreach
Aurélie Garzuel, Head of communications
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Press material is available on our [website](#)

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#expoSurfaceHorizon



INFO

Opening hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday,
Sunday: 11 AM - 7 PM
Thursday: 11 AM - 9 PM
Closed on Tuesday

Access

9, rue du Plâtre - 75004 Paris
44, rue Sainte-Croix de la Bretonnerie -
75004 Paris

Metro

Rambuteau: line 11
Hôtel de Ville: lines 1 & 11
Châtelet - Les Halles: lines 4, 7, 11, 14 & RER
A, B & D

Bus

Archives - Rambuteau: 29 & 75
Centre Georges Pompidou: 38, 47, 75 N12,
N13, N14 & N23
Hôtel de Ville: 67, 69, 76, 96, N11 & N16

Parking

31, rue Beaubourg
41-47, rue Rambuteau
4, place Baudoyer

Admission

Exhibitions : free entry
Events : special rates