

Caroline Le Méhauté // Statement

Behind Caroline Le Méhauté's approach and way of working lies a constant process of self-questioning about how we are in the world: how we place ourselves, the position we take, and the subsequent impact that can have, including in it this permanent state of "negotiation" and adaptability.

In the current epoch of dematerialisation, the visual artist's sculptural work cannot fail in its impact: its essence is its physical presence and material existence. Whether frontal or immersive, it seizes the onlooker's bodily attention and turns it into a palpable experience of time and space. The present, past and future live together; they carry the movement and transformation. Le Méhauté's relationship to life and all living creatures proposes natural and industrial materials in semantic movements going backwards and forwards in time and questioning the usual dichotomy between nature and culture.

In Caroline Le Méhauté's work, the earth, as Septembre Tiberghien has commented, "constantly updates both past and present, without interrupting its continuity in any way. Hence this impression of timelessness emanating from most of the artist's pieces, which seem to belong simultaneously to an age-old heritage and a near and distant future. (1)

Caroline's works settle into layers signifying an unbroken progression in time. Nature is understood as a dynamic reality and the principle of all movement (Aristotle). Hence the selected materials, which consistently make sense in this context: at the heart of the artist's work is peat, a unique ecosystem in itself, a real organic conservatory, a microcosm that has become rare and precious...

Between ontology, topology and metaphysical questioning, Caroline Le Méhauté shapes different densities of existence, which reveal themselves with strength and silence. Her works are potentially charged with the immensity of what has gone before us; in the current era, described as Anthropocene, they call, at the very least, on our state of awareness and watchfulness over the shadow carried by Man.

Caroline Le Méhauté graduated from the École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Marseille and also has an M.A. in Visual Arts from the University Toulouse Jean-Jaurès. She lives and works between Brussels and Toulouse. Her work has been presented to the public in solo and group shows, including the Biennale for Young Creative Artists in Europe and the Mediterranean in Italy, the Burkina Faso National Museum (Ougadougou), as well as Marseille-Provence 2013 – Capitale Européenne de la Culture/ European Cultural Capital. Her works can also be seen in public collections such as the Fonds communal d'Art contemporain/ The City of Marseille's Public Collection of Contemporary Art..

Pascale Viscardy

(1) Septembre Tiberghien/ Article in L'ART MEME n° 63, page 42