

Press release

Raphaëlle Peria

Si j'étais un arbre, je serais toi

May 23 – July 17, 2025

[interruption June 24 – 28]

Sometimes with children, when the temptation to touch something they want is too strong, we ask them to touch with their eyes. This demand, which represses the need to experience the tactile sensation of a material, is perhaps at the origin of Raphaëlle Peria's creative process: what if we could obtain the sensation of 'touching with our eyes'? Words have this evocative power when they are poetic, like the verses of Guillevic that often inspire the artist. But here it's a question of making images speak. To give them the quality of being a representation as much as an object that the eye can observe, filling itself with a tactile sensation.

In nature, in the midst of the plant world, we caress, smell and listen at the same time as our vision understands shapes and colors: we are offered a sense of totality. How can we recreate this experience? Entering into the image is utopic, so why shouldn't the image leave its surface and come to us? Here is Raphaëlle Peria's world in relief: meticulous, repetitive actions in the layers of paper and pigment work like the wind that blows transforming the flatness of the image into a delicate bark.

Of course, we'll just have to 'touch with our eyes', as Raphaëlle Peria's enlarged prints turn their fragility into an allegory of nature in turmoil today. But this optical thickness is a recomposition of the whole world. It is no longer a question of contemplating nature through the eyes of others, but of accessing the being of trees and plants. For the artist, the tree is a subject, not an object; it can express itself through its gestures, which are a metaphor for the rustling of its foliage and the muffled flow of its sap. If we were the tree, we might offer ourselves an invitation to touch.

Michel Poivert

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Accorder le néant à l'infini – Raphaëlle Peria

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Extract from the text *De rerum natura* by Philippe Piguet in *Accorder le néant à l'infini*

"[...] She says she loves trees. Loves them all the time.

It is her favorite subject. [...] She says, "they carry our memory, they guard our secrets". What's more, they are able to live much longer. Standing straight, they are both resistant and resilient. They give us the measure of time, that of nature in its fullness, between earth and sky. This is what the artist celebrates and highlights. [...]

Raphaëlle Peria loves everything to do with living things. She is interested in life and earth sciences, and vitality. Ecosystems are at the heart of her concerns."

NEWS 2025-2026

- Les rencontres de la photographie d'Arles July 7th-Octobre 5th and Paris Photo November 13th-16th, *Traversée du fragment manquant*, recipient with Fanny Robin of the BMW ART MAKERS program

- Chapelle de la Visitation – Espace d'art contemporain, Thonon-les-Bains, solo show, October 18th-December 14th

- La Casa de Velázquez, Académie de France à Madrid, residency 2025-2026

BIOGRAPHY IN A FEW DATES

Born in 1989 in Amiens. Lives and works in Paris.

2014

Graduated from the École Supérieure d'Art de Bretagne

2015

Finalist Bourse Révélation Emerige

2017

Marinus Asiaticus, first solo show at Galerie Papillon, Paris

2019

Creative residency and exhibition *Narcissus* in flores at Château Blanc, Flixecourt

2021

Group show *Blooming*, Domaine Vranken-Pommery, Reims

Artist residency, Drawing Factory, Paris

2022

Les pierres ne fanent pas, solo show at FRAC Picardie, Amiens

Group show *Singularités plurielles* Azul Andrea, Eva Jospin, Raphaëlle Peria, Christelle Téa at the Chapelle de la Visitation – Espace d'art contemporain, Thonon-les-Bains

2023

Artist residency, Domaine des Oseraies, Faverolles

Group show *Rien que les battements d'une absence de bruit*, Maison des Arts Plastiques Rosa Bonheur, Chevilly-Larue

Group show *Sentir le monde*, H2M Espace d'art contemporain, Bourg-en-Bresse and as part of Campagne-Première, Revonnas

2024

Dérives de nos rêves informulés, solo show at Fondation Bullukian, Lyon

Vogue au creux des valleuses, solo show at Musée Michel Ciry, Varengeville-sur-mer as part of the "Normandie Impressioniste" festival

Group show *French Photography Today*, Sungkok Art Museum, Seoul, South Korea

Group show *UNIQUE* beyond photography, Hangar photo art center, Brussels, Belgium

Le cycle des silences, in-situ commission Drawing Hotels Collection, hôtel Miss Fuller, Paris

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