

Phileas

THE AUSTRIAN OFFICE FOR
CONTEMPORARY ART

Press Information

Soshiro Matsubara with Bruno Pélassy Another Side of the Order of the Starfish



Soshiro Matsubara, *Untitled*, 2024. Courtesy of the artist and Croy Nielsen, Wien

Soshiro Matsubara with Bruno Pélassy
Another Side of the Order of the Starfish

Phileas, Opernring 17, 1010 Vienna
2 October 2024 – 11 January 2025
Opening: 1 October 2024, 7pm

Based on recent collaborations with two international institutions – Haus am Waldsee, Berlin, and 49 Nord 6 Est – Frac Lorraine, Metz – Phileas presents *Soshiro Matsubara with Bruno Pélassy: Another Side of the Order of the Starfish* from 2 October 2024 to 11 January 2025. The exhibition features works by Austrian-based artist Soshiro Matsubara in dialogue with those of French artist Bruno Pélassy, and showcases Matsubara's roles as a collector and exhibition designer.

The exhibitions in Berlin and Metz, both co-produced by Phileas, juxtaposed works by Matsubara and Pélassy alongside other artists. Matsubara was also invited in both cases to design the exhibition architecture.

Following these collaborations, the new exhibition in Vienna further explores Matsubara's multifaceted art practice and its parallels to Bruno Pélassy's work, such as the engagement with intimacy and vulnerability, and the intertwining of reality and surreal states.

In addition to his work as an artist, Matsubara is also a collector, incorporating found drawings, objects, and artifacts from flea markets and antique shops into his practice. He disregards conventional quality standards of the art world and collects also simple, seemingly insignificant works. It is often the banal, kitschy, or uncanny items that attract his attention. In Vienna, the artist is exhibiting, for the first time, a selection of these collected pieces, placing them in dialogue with his own works and those of Pélassy.

Matsubara is intrigued by the various possibilities of presentation and how artworks are perceived differently depending on their surroundings, often telling new stories. His exhibition architecture introduces new sightlines and perspectives that recontextualise the displayed objects and create interactions between them.

Matsubara's exhibition architecture, consisting of pedestals, wall hangings, curtains and carpets, transforms the exhibition space. Through textile elements and lamps, he creates the atmosphere of an intimate private living room, where the artworks feel like they are part of a personal collection of art and curiosities.

The exhibition is accompanied by a public programme.

About Soshiro Matsubara

Soshiro Matsubara (born 1980 in Hokkaido, Japan) is a Japanese artist who has lived in Vienna for over a decade. He works with various media, including drawing, painting, and ceramics. In his artistic process, he plays with art historical references and incorporates existing images from the past. Desire, intimacy, obsession, romance, fantasy, and longing are essential elements in his work.

Soshiro Matsubara's work has been exhibited in numerous galleries and museums worldwide, including MACRO, Rome; Aspen Art Museum, Aspen; Bel Ami, Los Angeles; Union Pacific, London; Martina Simeti, Milan; Modern Art, London; Braunsfelder, Cologne; Den Frie, Copenhagen; Museum Sønderjylland, Tønder; Freedman Fitzpatrick, Los Angeles; XYZ Collective, Tokyo; Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago; and 356 Mission, Los Angeles.

Matsubara is represented by Croy Nielsen, Vienna.

About Bruno Pélassy

Bruno Pélassy (born 1966 in Vientiane, Laos / died 2002 in Nice, France) was a draughtsman, performer, sculptor, and designer who died at the age of 36 from complications related to AIDS.

Pélassy was originally trained in textile and jewellery design, which eventually led to a job at the jeweller Swarovski. During this time, he became familiar with the various processes and techniques of fashion design, which he would use in his artistic practice from then on. In his fragile yet extravagant work, he employed the techniques of collaging, sewing, separating, and joining, and combined a large variety of materials. He often mixed high-quality materials—including glass, crystal or handmade jewellery—with found objects such as old yellowed fabrics, books, records, or discarded mechanical plastic toys. His work defies simple categorisation and blurs the boundaries between disciplines through the formal and playful use of materials.

Bruno Pélassy's work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including at 49 Nord 6 Est – Frac Lorraine, Metz (2024); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2023 and 2012); Haus am Waldsee, Berlin (2023); 55 Walker Street, New York (2018); Flat Time House, London (2016); and MAMCO, Geneva (2016).

Pélassy is represented by Air de Paris, Romainville.

Further Information

www.phileas.art/exhibition-space/soshiromatsubara

www.phileas.art/press

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Opening Hours:

Tuesday – Friday, 11 am – 5 pm
Saturday, 11 am – 3 pm

Public Events

Guided Tours of the exhibition at Opernring 17, 1010 Vienna

Thursday, 10 October 2024, 6.30 pm
Tuesday, 12 November 2024, 6.30 pm
Tuesday, 26 November 2024, 6.30 pm

Please register at events@phileas.art.

Cash Only: A Winter Flea Market Presented by *Haus der Matsubara*

Saturday, 30 November 2024, 11 am – 3 pm, Opernring 17, 1010 Vienna

Taking inspiration from Soshiro Matsubara's collecting activities, Phileas is hosting a winter flea market. Matsubara possesses a large number of found drawings, images, and objects that he has carefully acquired over time from old magazines or antique shops. Collecting is an integral part of his artistic practice and led him to found the online platform *Haus der Matsubara* in 2017, where he offered a part of his collection for sale. On the occasion of his exhibition at Phileas, Matsubara is curating a flea market where both art works and found items will be available.