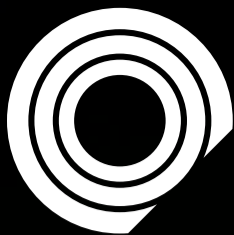


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28.9.2019–5.4.2020

JOHAN TAHON

REFUGE / SILENCE

Photographie: Gert Jan van Rooij

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Press Kit

16 September 2019

Johan Tahon

REFUGE/SILENCE

Musée Ariana, 28 September 2019 – 5 April 2020

Press visits on request only

Exhibition preview Friday 27 September 2019 at 6pm

Musée Ariana

Swiss Museum for Ceramics and Glass

10, avenue de la Paix

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Press kit available at “Presse”: www.ariana-geneve.ch

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**Johan Tahon
REFUGE/SILENCE**

Musée Ariana, 28 September 2019 – 5 April 2020

CONTENTS

Johan Tahon. REFUGE/SILENCE	p. 3
Biography of Johan Tahon	p. 4
Events	p. 8
Practical information	p. 9

**Johan Tahon
REFUGE/SILENCE**

Musée Ariana, 28 September 2019 – 5 April 2020

JOHAN TAHON. REFUGE/SILENCE

The Musée Ariana is proud to present Johan Tahon. REFUGE/SILENCE, in partnership with the Kunstforum gallery in Solothurn, from 28 September 2019 to 5 April 2020 in the space dedicated to contemporary creation. Johan Tahon, internationally renowned Belgian artist, is exhibiting a strong and committed body of work that reveals his deep connection with the ceramic medium.

In the space devoted to contemporary creation, visitors enter a mystical world inhabited by hieratic monks, leading them into a second gallery where, in addition to the figures, pharmacy jars or *albarelli* are displayed. A direct reference to the history of faience, the ointments, powders and medicines contained in such vessels were intended to heal both body and soul.

A sensitive oeuvre reflecting the human condition

Johan Tahon's oeuvre evolves in an original and individual way. Far removed from utilitarian ware, his work belongs to the lineage of the ceramic figure, human or animal, that inspired the most ancient terracotta pieces.

Tahon's ceramic sculpture is powerful and expressive. His figures go straight to the essential, seeking neither to seduce nor to deceive; they express the density and complexity of the human condition. The unsmoothed moulding marks, the holes that introduce a permeability between interior and exterior, the almost cicatrising coating of immaculate white glaze are all characteristic features of a corpus of work that oscillates between rusticity and refinement, whispering and silence.

His figures both express the artist's emotions and reflect the complexity of the world. They attract and disturb us, are tormented and silent, raw and sensitive, towering above us with their monumental scale, and yet remain our clay brothers and sisters.

Rooted in the art of the past

Tahon's openly contemporary practice is coupled with a marked taste for the art of the past. Medieval woodcarving, Ottoman Iznik ceramics, Flemish painting or, from a later period, the sculpture of Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) and Wilhelm Lehmbruck (1881-1919) are more than just direct sources of inspiration; these references anchor and nurture the artist and his creativity. Passionate about Italian maiolica and Hispano-Moorish ware and a collector himself, Johan Tahon's works permeate the Musée Ariana's showcases of antique faience, in a rich dialogue between history and contemporary art.

Shared curatorship and a publication

This show has been organised by Anne-Claire Schumacher, exhibition curator and head curator of the Musée Ariana, in partnership with the gallerist Hanspeter Dähler of the Kunstforum Solothurn.

The monograph *Johan Tahon. REFUGE / SILENCE*, in French and English, retraces the artist's fascinating career and presents his most recent works. Anthony Girardi, Anne-Claire Schumacher and Marie-Émilie Fourneaux have all contributed to this publication.

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHAN TAHON

Johan Tahon was born in Menen (Belgium) in 1965. He lives and works in Belgium and Switzerland. He studied sculpture at the Ghent Royal Academy of Fine Arts (BE).

Since 1994, Johan Tahon has exhibited his work on a regular basis in Belgium as well as abroad. In 1996, he caught the attention of Belgium's most influential curator and museum director Jan Hoet (e.g. Documenta 9), who made it possible for Tahon to interact with world-class artists in the internationally renowned exhibition *De Rode Poort* at the Ghent Museum of Contemporary Art (alongside artists like Luc Tuymans, Vito Acconci and Sam Taylor-Wood). From then on, Tahon started exhibiting his work at different galleries and in prominent museums across Europe, either solo or in conjunction with, for example, Ilya Kabakov, Günther Förg, Tony Cragg and Stephan Balkenhol.

He has taken part in major exhibitions such as at Beaufort (Ostend, BE) and Lustwarande (Tilburg, NL) and exhibited his sculptures at places like the Ministry of Finance (The Hague, NL), the Gerhard Marcks Haus (Bremen, DE), the Academia Belgica (Rome, IT), the courtyard of the Topkapi Palace (Istanbul, TR), the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington DC, USA) and the Istanbul Biennial (TR).

Tahon's sculptures also form part of important public and private collections.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (selection since 2013)

2018

Wir Überleben das Licht (with the poems of Till Lindemann, lead vocalist of the German rock band Rammstein), Bonnefontenmuseum, Maastricht, The Netherlands

2017

Monk, (curated by Tanya Rumpff), Nationaal Keramiek Museum Princessehof, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands

Oh You've Got Blue Eyes Oh You've Got Green Eyes Oh You've Got Pink Eyes Oh You've Got Black Eyes, Gerhard Hofland, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (duo exhibition with Koen Delaere)

Carte Blanche (Johan Tahon in combination with outsider artists, curated by Emma van Proosdij), Galerie Atelier Herenplaats, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

2016

Elimart, ELIM, Center for Psychotherapy and Art, Kapellen, Belgium

Landscape, Form and Psyche, Gerhard Hofland, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Metanoia, duo exhibition with Alexander Tinei, Galerie Dukan, Leipzig, Germany

2015

Weiß / White, Vila Goecke, Krefeld, Germany

Sprinkler, Galerie Dukan, Paris, France

Nagyobb az Istennél, duo exhibition with Alexander Tinei, Deák Galéria, Budapest, Hungary

2014

Circular Song, Galerie Van De Weghe, Antwerp, Belgium

Adorant, Gerhard Hofland, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The albarelli will travel, first stop at De Coöperatieve, Hasselt, Belgium

Albarelli (for all sores), Valerie Traan, Antwerp, Belgium

2013

Sculptor drawings and graphic arts from the collection of Johan Tahon in combination with his own artworks, Museum Beelden aan Zee, The Hague, The Netherlands

Grave Souls and Secrets, Contemporary Art Centre Odapark, Venray, The Netherlands

Almond, Envoy Enterprises, New York, USA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selection since 2015)

2017

Ecce Homo (with e.g. Luc Tuymans, Dirk Braeckman, Michaël Borremans..., curated by Yasmine Geukens, Marie-Paule De Vil, Marion de Cannière and Eric Rinckhout), different locations in the city, Antwerp, Belgium

Uit het nest geroofd, CC De Steiger, Menen, Belgium

Lee Ranaldo: Lost Ideas (with e.g. Daniel Johnston, Kim Gordon, Raymond Pettibon, Chad VanGalen..., curated by Lee Ranaldo and Jan Van Woensel), Municipal Museum and CC De Steiger, Menin, Belgium

Bastion 10 (in collaboration with S.M.A.K.), Oude Leielaan 10, Menin, Belgium

The Fifth Element (with e.g. Jannis Kounellis, Tony Cragg, Wim Delvoye..., curated by Hasan Bülent Kahraman), Sanatçılar Parkı, Istanbul, Turkey

Weiss (with e.g. Willy De Sauter, Johannes Nagel...), Kunstforum Solothurn, Solothurn, Switzerland

Strong Waters, Rossicontemporary, Brussels, Belgium

Clair Lieu, Das Grosse Haus – Südschule, Viersen-Dülken, Germany

Emulate | (Ne) Plus Ultra State: 'Take Away Collection', (curated by Jesse Kirschner and Jesse Howard), SCHUNK*, Heerlen, The Netherlands

Ton Scherben Steine (Clay Shards Rocks) (with e.g. Leiko Ikemura, Gert und Uwe Tobias, Elmar Trenkwalder...), Thomas Rehbein Galerie, Cologne, Germany

2016

The collection (curated by Jan Van Woensel), The Underground School of Contemporary Art (USCA), Antwerp, Belgium

De Generaties, De Markten, Brussels, Belgium

Human Condition (with e.g. Marlene Dumas, Ed Templeton, Polly Borland, Robert Mapplethorpe..., curated by John Wolf), West-Adams, Los Angeles, USA

Ubi Sunt, town cemetery, Tielt, Belgium

LUSTER - Clay in Sculpture Today, Fundament Foundation at Park De Oude Warande, Tilburg, The Netherlands

Menin Road/Ypernstrasse - Landscape, Form & Psyche (with e.g. Edward Lipski, Renato Nicolodi, Claire Fontaine, Jananne Al-Ani, Eva Kot'átková, Bruce Nauman..., curated by Johan Tahon), Along the road from Menin to Ypres, Belgium

Scaldis (with e.g. Panamarenko, Michaël Borremans, Patrick Van Caekenbergh, Honoré d'O..., curated by Johan Tahon), city centre of Oudenaarde, Belgium

Het Verbeelde Westen, Residence of the Belgian Ambassador, The Hague, The Netherlands

Cabinet d'Amis: The Accidental Collection of Jan Hoet (with e.g. Mario Merz, Joseph Beuys, Marlene Dumas, Juan Munoz..., curated by Katerina Gregos), Art Brussels, Brussels, Belgium

Main d'oeuvre, SHOWROOM - Sint-Lucas, Antwerp, Belgium & Plantin Moretusmuseum, Antwerp, Belgium

(le) SILENCE voor mijn vader / for my father, Valerie_traan, Antwerp, Belgium

Ceramix - Ceramic art from Gauguin to Schütte, Maison Rouge, Paris, France & Cité de la céramique, Sèvres, France

2015

Mapping Venice (in partnership with Sint-Lucas Antwerp), Arsenale, Venice, Italy

Ceramix - Ceramic art from Gauguin to Schütte, Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht, The Netherlands

Main d'oeuvre (within the context of 20 years Ergo Pers), Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, The Netherlands

In Transitie - Kunst & Zwalm, different locations in Zwalm, Belgium

Veldwerk (Jubilee exhibition, 25th anniversary Kunstvereniging Diepenheim), Drawing Centre, Diepenheim, The Netherlands

Beeld (compiled by Karel Schampers and Joost Declercq), Amsterdam Art Fair Kunsthal Citroën, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Werk op papier van Belgische beeldhouwers (in parallel with Vormidable Den Haag Sculptuur), Galerie Maurits van de Laar, The Hague, The Netherlands

Works on paper, Galerie Van De Weghe, Antwerp, Belgium

Amsterdam Trail, Spiegelkwartier, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Main d'oeuvre (within the context of 20 years Ergo Pers), Roger Raveelmuseum, Machelen, Belgium

Verhelst XL, Theater aan het Spui, The Hague, The Netherlands
The Hague Sculpture – sculpture of Flanders (within the context of 20 years of cultural collaboration between The Netherlands and Flanders), Lange Voorhout, The Hague, The Netherlands
Sculpture of Flanders (within the context of 20 years of cultural collaboration between The Netherlands and Flanders), Museum Beelden aan Zee, The Hague, The Netherlands
Self-portraits / Reflections, CC De Steiger, Menen, Belgium
In Search of Meaning - The human image in a global perspective (with e.g. Juan Muñoz, Marc Quinn, Antony Gormley..., curated by Anne Berk), Museum de Fundatie, Zwolle, The Netherlands
No walls (within the context of 20 years of cultural collaboration between The Netherlands and Flanders, curated by Bob Smits), Fenix Loods, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

PUBLIC ASSIGNMENTS

Noord (2014), CGG, Oudenaarde, Belgium
ZON (SUN) Anima/Animus (2013), Ostend, Belgium
Kamer Van Kwarts (2012), AZ Damiaan, Ostend, Belgium
Offer (2011), Schwerte, Germany
Heros (2011), Zwalm, Belgium
The Meeting and the Soul (2010), Belgian Consulate, Istanbul, Turkey
Arche (2010), Katholieke Hogeschool, Kortrijk, Belgium
Design of the Magister Artium Gandensis trophy (2010) for the KASK, Ghent, Belgium
Design of the award for the Culture Prizes of the Flemish Community (2009-2011)
Mediaan (2009), CBS Heerlen, The Netherlands
Perseus (2009), Europlanetarium, Genk, Belgium
New Seismo (2009), Ministry of Finance, The Hague, The Netherlands
Sterrenberg (Atari) (2008), Zorgcentrum Bergh, Roermond, The Netherlands
Amorfia (1996-2004), Universitair Ziekenhuis Antwerpen, Antwerp, Belgium
Natal (2004), Market Square Menen, Belgium
H (2002), Museum am Dom, Würzburg, Germany
Kepler (2000), Academisch Ziekenhuis, Sint Blasius, Dendermonde, Belgium
Universus (V.M.Z.) (1998), Markt, Oudenaarde, Belgium
Dirty Snowball (1997), Stichting George Grard, Gijverinkhove, Belgium
(1996), Conferentie Centrum Montil, Essene, Belgium

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Achmea Kunstcollectie, Zeist, The Netherlands
Albert Heijn Kunststichting, The Netherlands
Musée Ariana, Geneva
AMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Bonnetantenmuseum, Maastricht, The Netherlands
BPD Kunstcollectie, Hoevelaken, The Netherlands
Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image Imprimée, La Louvière, Belgium
CerModern, Ankara, Turkey
Dexia, Brussels, Belgium
Flemish Community, Brussels, Belgium
Flemish Parliament, Brussels, Belgium
Gemeentemuseum (GEM), The Hague, The Netherlands
Internationales Kunstzentrum Ostbelgien (IKOB), Eupen, Belgium
Interpolis, Tilburg, The Netherlands
Istanbul Modern, Istanbul, Turkey
Iznik Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey
Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey
Keramiekmuseum Princessehof, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands
Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium

Municipal Collection, Lokeren, Belgium
 Museum Beelden aan Zee, Scheveningen, The Netherlands
 Museum Constant Permeke, Jabbeke, Belgium
 Museum für zeitgenössische Kunst und Design (MARTa), Herford, Germany
 Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst (M HKA), Antwerp, Belgium
 MOU, Oudenaarde, Belgium (between Keramiekmuseum and Mu.ZEE)
 Nederlandsche Bank, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen, Ghent, Belgium
 Provincie West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
 SCHUNCK*, Heerlen, The Netherlands
 Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 Stedelijk Museum Het Domein, Sittard, The Netherlands
 Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K.), Ghent, Belgium
 Tourism Flanders, Belgium
 Universitair Hospitaal Antwerpen, Antwerp, Belgium
 Vanhaerents Art Collection, Brussels, Belgium
 Zorgcentrum Mesen, Mesen, Belgium

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 Salt and Ice (2013), Gent: Möbius Publications
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 Teeuwisse, J., Roelstraete D., Verhelst P., Van Cauteren P. & De Baets I. (2006). *IF/ Johan Tahon*, tent. cat., Scheveningen, Museum Beelden aan Zee, Tiel: Lannoo.
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 Van Mulders, W. (2008). *Johan Tahon: een eeuwige fluidum*, in: Observatorium, Antwerpen: Ludion.
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 Wittocx, E. & Stubbe, E. (2000). *Johan Tahon: Tideride-Mindfield*, Amsterdam: Vlaams Cultuurhuis de Brakke Grond.

EVENTS

Publication

Anthony Girardi, Anne-Claire Schumacher and Marie-Émilie Fourneaux
Johan Tahon. REFUGE / SILENCE, French / English, 2019, CHF 28.-

Guided tours

Sundays 29 September at 2pm in the presence of the artist, 6 October at 2pm, 3 November, 1 December 2019, 2 February, 8 March at 11am and 5 April 2020 at 2pm

Free admission

Guided tours on request

In French, English or German

Fee payable, pre-booking required

Descriptive and tactile tour for blind and visually-impaired persons

Tuesday 15 October 2019 at 2.30pm and 10 March 2020 at 10am

Free admission, pre-booking required

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am – 6pm, closed Mondays

Entrée

5 / 3 CHF for under 18s and on the first Sunday of the month; all other Sundays, buy one ticket, get one free

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