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Dana Schutz, *Le monde visible*

6 October 2023 - 11 February 2024

Press preview, Thursday 5 October, 9.30am to 12pm



The exhibition *Dana Schutz. Le monde visible (Dana Schutz. The Visible World)* will be held from 6 October 2023 to 11 February 2024 at the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris. It is the first time that the work of this internationally renowned American artist has been shown in France on this scale.

Dana Schutz. The Visible World includes forty paintings from the early 2000s until today, alongside twenty drawings and etchings and seven sculptures.

Dana Schutz is a storyteller. Her work builds a world of unruly characters, human folly, deadpan predicaments and physical calamity. She often paints a dystopic portrait of today's world, untethered to traditional notions of beauty. A virtuoso in her use of colour, over the years she has honed a sense of dramatic tension which is revealed in her intricate compositions. Her paintings depict imaginary scenes inspired by hypothetical situations, physical improbabilities, contemporary life and language.

This exhibition outlines various themes that can be found throughout her work: intangible subjects, often portrayed with humour; artists at work; the transformation and construction of the self; and tensions between the individual and the collective.

In recent years, Schutz has added sculpture to her artistic practice, extending her gestures and forms in clay. Coming full circle, the subject of sculpture can be found in her earliest paintings. Recently her paintings have become more volumetric and allegorical, increasingly populated with clusters of colourful characters who may be floating through the night, perched upon an island of jawbones, or fighting to stand on top of a mountain.

PRESSE RELEASE

Director

Fabrice Hergott

Curator

Anaël Pigeat
assisted by Alexandra Jouanneau

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Dana Schutz
Mountain Group
2018
Oil on canvas
304,8 x 396,2 cm
Collection Marguerite Steed Hoffman
Photo Jason Mandella
© 2023 Dana Schutz. Courtesy of the
artist, CFA Berlin, Thomas Dane Gallery
and David Zwirner

Visitor information

Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris
11 Avenue du Président Wilson
75116 Paris
Tel. 01 53 67 40 00
www.mam.paris.fr

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 6pm

Open late Thursdays, until 9:30pm

Admission

Full rate: 12 €
Concessions: 10 €

Cultural activities, information and reservations

Tel. 01 53 67 40 80

Press officer

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These visions of a post-apocalyptic world are influenced by her take on art history, from Bruegel to Alice Neel. They evoke the obsolescence of an ailing world, the vanity of contemporary mythologies and the breakdown of communication. Taken from a painting of the same name, the exhibition title *The Visible World* acts a proposal and a contradiction — illuminating the formless and the imaginary.

The exhibition *Dana Schutz. Le monde visible*, is organised by the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris in close collaboration with the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art of Humlebæk (Denmark).

Dana Schutz was born in 1976 in Livonia (Michigan). She lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Biography

Dana Schutz was born in Livonia, in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan, in 1976. She studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art (Bachelor of Fine Arts), then at Columbia University (Master of Fine Arts), in New York, where she lives and works today.

From 2002 onward, her work has been the subject of many solo shows, notably at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland (2006), the Museo di arte moderna e contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto (Italy, 2010), and the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, in Atlanta (2011). Her travelling exhibition *If The Face Had Wheels* opened at the Neuberger Museum of Art in Purchase, New York, in the autumn of 2011. This was followed by an exhibition at the Hepworth Wakefield Museum (United Kingdom), in 2013. A retrospective on her career was held at the musée d'Art contemporain de Montréal (Canada, 2015), followed by an exhibition of recent works at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2017), and at the Transformer Station, Cleveland (2018).

Schutz also took part in many group exhibitions, notably *Clandestine*, Venice Biennial (2003); *Greater New York*, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York (2005); *Art in America: Three Hundred Years of Innovation*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2007); *Riotous Baroque*, Kunsthaus Zürich (Switzerland, 2012); and *America Is Hard To See*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2015).

In 2017, Schutz presented three paintings at the Whitney Biennial, in New York: *Open Casket* (2016), *Fight in an Elevator* (2015) and *Shame* (2017). On this occasion, *Open Casket* drew controversy.

Her work has been shown in several recent group exhibitions, for instance *Dirty Protest*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2019). In 2020, she took part in the major exhibition *Radical Figures. Painting in the New Millennium*, at the Whitechapel Gallery, London. In 2021, her work was also part of the show *Portals*, held by the Hellenic Parliament and the artistic foundation Neon at the former Public Tobacco Factory, in Athens (Greece). In 2022, she participated in *Sheila Hicks: Off Grid*, at The Hepworth Wakefield Museum (United Kingdom), as well as in *Espressioni con Frazioni*, at the Castello di Rivoli (Italy).

Dana Schutz's artworks appear in many public collections around the world, notably: Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museo di arte moderna e contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto (Italy); Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

Wall texts

Face Eater, 2004

The motif is grotesque, a pure product of the imagination, impossible to behold in the real world. We often hear about people 'eating their own words' or 'choking on their words', or about screams 'getting stuck in the throat'. Here, the outside of the face is being engulfed by the mouth before coming out again digested and transformed in a constant push-and-pull between inside and outside — with Schutz seemingly trying to breach the boundaries of both spaces. Language precedes the artwork. The mission of the painting is then to outmanoeuvre language, to leave it behind and to reveal itself on its own terms. Hints of Cubism can be seen in this artwork. As is the case with the painting *Swimming, Smoking, Crying* (2009), the face eater is also a distant cousin of Edvard Munch's (1863–1944) *Scream*.



Dana Schutz
Face Eater
2004
Oil on canvas
58,4 x 45,7 cm
Private Collection, New York
Photo Jason Mandella
© 2023 Dana Schutz. Courtesy of the artist, CFA Berlin,
Thomas Dane Gallery and David Zwirner

The Visible World, 2018

In her earliest works, Dana Schutz has often depicted catastrophes by the seaside — idyllic landscapes with worlds crumbling in the foreground. Here, a naked woman is lying on a rock in the middle of the ocean. Around her, waves are carrying all sorts of detritus adding to the general mood of disaster. Has she been shipwrecked or is she a goddess pointing out rather flatly the gravity of the situation with one arm outstretched? As a female Prometheus, she sternly fixes her gaze on the viewer while receiving an offering of raspberries from a bird. She even possesses a third arm. In Schutz's own words, she has traffic-light green eyes. The title *The Visible World* denotes the reality of pictures, a container for the intangible, a condition that the subject of this painting seems to be forever bound to, while gesturing toward escape.



Dana Schutz
The Visible World
2018
Oil on canvas
274,3 x 355,6 cm
Private Collection
Photo Jason Mandella
© 2023 Dana Schutz. Courtesy of the artist, CFA Berlin,
Thomas Dane Gallery and David Zwirner

Visitor information

MUSÉE D'ART MODERNE DE PARIS

Postal address

11, avenue du Président Wilson, 75116 Paris

Tél. 01 53 67 40 00

www.mam.paris.fr

Public transport

- Metro : Alma-Marceau ou Léna (ligne 9)
- Bus : 32/42/63/72/80/
- Vélib's bike station : 4 rue de Longchamp ; 4 avenue Marceau ; place de la reine Astrid ; 45 avenue Marceau or 3 avenue Bosquet
- Bike : Bicycle parking spaces are available in front of the museum entrance.
- RER C : Pont de l'Alma (ligne C)

Opening hours

- Tuesday-Sunday, 10am - 6pm (last entry 5:15pm)
- Closed on Monday and on some public holidays
- Open late: Thursday until 9.30pm

Admission

Full rate: 12 €

Reduced rate: 10 €

Free for visitors under 18

Combined ticket with Nicolas de Staël exhibition full price: 17 €

Combined ticket with Nicolas de Staël exhibition reduced rate : 15 €

The exhibition is accessible to people with motor disabilities and reduce mobility.

No-queue tickets: www.mam.paris.fr

Press Officer

Maud Ohana

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All information: Museum reception or :
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