

# FONDATION THALIE

**KARINE ROUGIER - ALESSANDRO ROMA**

*En même temps, elle sentit la matière du ciel*

Brussels, April 24 - June 15, 2019

**INAUGURAL EXHIBITION 2019**

Opening April 23 at 17:00 during Art Brussels

The Fondation Thalie in Brussels, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year, has invited French artist Karine Rougier to recreate her atelier as an immersive exhibition. Dialoguing with ceramics by Italian artist Alessandro Roma, Karine Rougier blends various organic forms inspired by nature. The work ties in with the Fondation's annual themed programming—this year, “The Renaissance Artist as Worker”—completed through a residency, an exhibition, workshops, publications... the physicality of gesture is built into the work via the act of painting, drawing, and sculpting. The work highlights a rapport with materiality, which is experienced as an utmost necessity, one counter to our dematerialized era.



Around Us, oil on wood, Karine Rougier, detail, 103 x 93 cm, 2018 © JC

There is a poetic syncretism in Karine Rougier's work. This exhibition has committed to recreating the artist's atelier: a veritable cabinet of curiosities located in Marseille. Here, it's a matter of adapting as closely as possible the singularity of this intimate space by drawing upon multiple sources of inspiration. A vitrine specially produced for the exhibition will showcase objects, picked up here and there, that the artist has great affection for: masks, talismans, old etchings and '70s-era postcards... items that the artist, who is passionate about sacred stories and poetry, uses as inspiration to build her magic realism-tinged visual tales. In this new series of paintings, hands are always articulated as though they were characters or games (which are recurrent elements in her work). There is also Kali, the Indian goddess of destruction and rebirth, whose necklace encircles a neck without a head, referencing the Biblical scene in which Judith beheads Holoferne, if approximately, since the decapitated head wears a bear mask affixed to the hairline, like a savage janus. Karine Rougier's work situates itself outside of time, celestial and dreamlike. Her masterful drawings conjure a virginal world, peopled by feminine divinities linked to nature and to the stars.

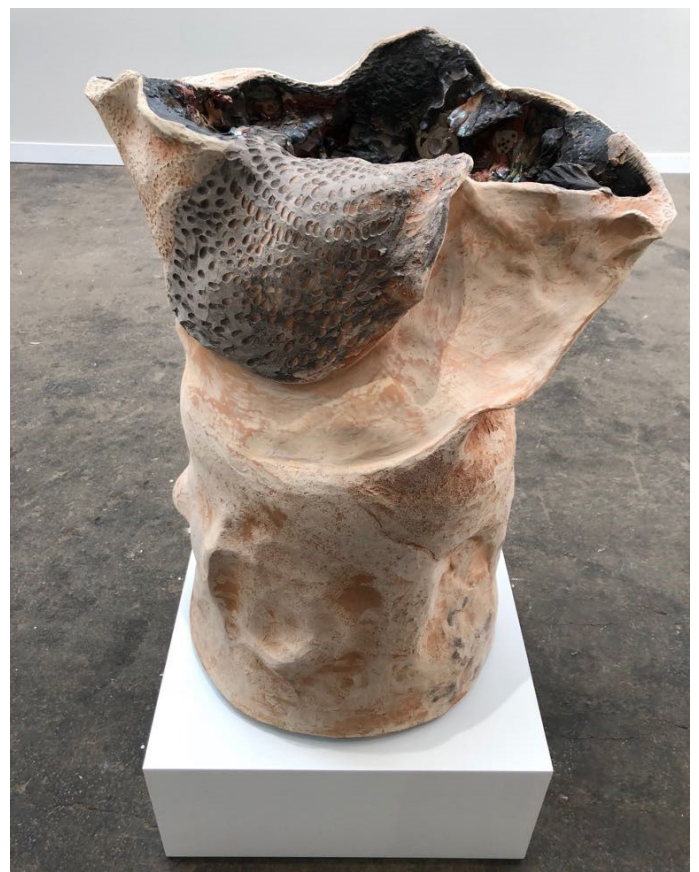


Karine Rougier in her atelier © DR

Born in Malta in 1982, Karine Rougier lives and works in Marseille. After having studied at the Arts Décoratifs in Geneva, followed by the École Supérieure d'Art in Aix-en-Provence, Karine Rougier developed her practice of drawing and oil paintings on wood. Her work is inspired by her journeys, underwater excursions in the Mediterranean and her desire to believe in the supernatural. She represented Malta at the 2017 Venice Biennale.

## **An exhibition in dialogue with Alessandro Roma's work**

Alessandro Roma's work is composed of echoes and stereophonics. The unique decorative elements of his ceramics are made from shocks to the material. The artist showcases a total sense of freedom in his work through the choice of glazes and the enamels, at once through the color lines as well as through the cuts and extrusions of the earth inspired by telluric forces. The rupture in the compact clay forms, and the fragmentation of the lines, opens the gaze to a new dimension and creates links by playing with otherness between the works, the body and space.



Untitled, 2017, ceramic by Alessandro Roma © DR



Alessandro Roma © Pavlov

Born in Milan in 1977, Alessandro Roma lives and works in Brussels. He studied art at the Accademia di Brera. Although he considers himself a painter above all else, he also draws, makes collages, uses textiles and creates sculptures. His works have been featured in solo and group exhibitions in galleries and museums throughout Europe and in New York.



As part of the events associated with Art Brussels 2019 and of the VIP program of the event

---

## **PROGRAM TIED TO KARINE ROUGIER AND ALESSANDRO ROMA'S EXHIBITION**

During her residency at the Fondation Thalie, artist Karine Rougier will lead two special workshops.

### **WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS AND ADULTS**

**Wednesday 27/03/2019 — 16:00-18:00**

**Workshop for kids, *Magic Kachina Dolls* - Age 6 and up**

Made by the Hopi Indians, Kachinas are small dolls that incarnate the spirits of rain, fire, and more. The dolls are given to children to familiarize them with the unknowns of the world. The aim of this workshop is for each child to fashion a small doll from bits of wood, paints, feathers, or bits of fabric.

**Monday 08/04/2019 — 18:00-20:00**

**Drawing workshop for adults, *Anywhere outside the world***

Each person brings materials (such as family photos, decoupages, pages torn from magazines, postcards) in order to create an entirely other world shaped by the craziest instincts. The idea is to envisage drawing as a transformation, a metamorphosis and a mutation.

### **POETRY READING**

**Saturday 27/04/2019 - 17:00**

**Véronique Caye + Karine Rougier + Nathalie Guiot**

***Mon corps voyageur dans un nuage de terre***

---



Fondation Thalie © Michel Figuet

## 2019 : THALIELAB BECOMES THE FONDATION THALIE

Five-year anniversary | New name | New program

The Fondation Thalie was created under the name ThalieLab in 2014 by the collector and philanthropist Nathalie Guiot. The foundation's mission has been to support, promote and disseminate contemporary creation committed to societal themes; its aim is cultural transmission, exchange and sharing. This is expressed through exhibitions dedicated to emerging artists, as well as residencies and production assistance. As an incubator of thought, the foundation is committed to defending and promoting a collective intelligence in arts and culture.

For its five-year anniversary, ThalieLab will become the Fondation Thalie, initiating a new graphic identity and a completely redesigned website that divides off-site projects from the activities at the Brussels headquarters.

### FONDATION THALIE

Rue Buchholtz 15,  
1050 Brussels, Belgium  
[www.fondationthalie.org](http://www.fondationthalie.org)

#### Useful information:

Exhibition from April 24 to June 15, 2019

Free admission - open from Wednesday to Saturday - 14:00 > 18:00

Exceptional opening Wednesday, April 24, 2019 for the Gallery Night on the occasion of Art Brussels



#### COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA CONTACTS:

Virginie Burnet / Olivia de Smedt / Gaëlle Rueff  
[g.rueff@lartenplus.com](mailto:g.rueff@lartenplus.com)  
[www.lartenplus.com](http://www.lartenplus.com)