

TEMPLON



Press release

5 November 2024

HERVÉ DI ROSA
IDOLES ET TRESORS/IDOLS AND TREASURES
2020 - 2024
11 January – 1 March 2025



Pellucidar Treasure, 2019, acrylic on canvas, 210 x 130 cm

Galerie Templon is delighted to present its first show of the striking work of Hervé Di Rosa, one of the founding artists of the Figuration Libre movement.

Originally from Sète in southern France, Hervé Di Rosa has gradually forged an artistic path inspired by popular culture, animated film and comic books.

His work, infused with curiosity and innovation, has found expression through fruitful collaborations with various artisans from around the world. It has manifested in a vast array of techniques, ranging from acrylic on canvas to sculpture, egg tempera and gold leaf on wood, alongside painting on azulejos.

With “Idols and Treasures”, Hervé di Rosa showcases his journey as a painter over the past five years. The exhibition features a series of around a dozen of medium-sized and large-format paintings created between 2020 and 2024. The artist pays tribute to nearly four centuries of cultural explorations which have shaped history, drawing from the rich traditions of painting, sculpture, music and literature. Each canvas invites visitors to immerse themselves in Di Rosa’s lavish and deceptively naive world.

Address: 30 Rue Beaubourg 75003 Paris. Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am - 7 pm
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Rejecting all sense of hierarchy, the artist's canvases evoke Christopher Columbus' majestic caravels, Jules Verne's mysterious abysses, the imposing Mayan temples of Chichen Itza and the sumptuous sarcophagi of the most illustrious of Egyptian pharaohs. These complex compositions, situated at the edge of surrealism, unveil hybrid characters, ranging from historical figures to endearing four-eyed monsters and nurturing mother earth figures made of bricks. Di Rosa's enchanting microcosms thus establish a playful and constructive dialogue between the fine arts, applied arts, outsider art and cultivated art, as well as between Western and non-Western art. With this work Di Rosa, a dazzlingly unique artist, reveals a vision of art without borders, transcending cultural genres and geographical origins, effectively abolishing any hierarchy that values high culture over low culture.

Born in 1959, Hervé Di Rosa lives and works between Lisbon, Paris and Sète.

A student at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, Hervé Di Rosa began selling his paintings in 1979. At just 20 years old, he was already exhibiting in Paris, Amsterdam and New York. In 1981 he co-founded the art movement Figuration Libre, as named by the artist Ben. This group, which included Robert Combas, Rémi Blanchard and François Boisrond, echoed other marginalized forms of international expressions, from Neo-expressionism and New Fauves in Germany to the Transavantgarde in Italy and even Bad Painting in the United States.

Since 1981 his work has appeared in over 200 solo exhibitions and is included in major public and private collections in Europe, the USA and Asia. Recent solo and group exhibitions in France include shows at La Maison Rouge, Paris (2016), La Piscine - Musée d'Art et d'Industrie André-Diligent, Roubaix (2018), Musée de Valence (2022) and Musée National d'Art Moderne - Centre Pompidou, Paris (2024). The Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée in Marseilles (MUCEM) will hold a solo exhibition in March 2025.

A pioneer and champion of the concept of "Modest Art", Di Rosa founded the Musée International des Arts Modestes (MIAM) in 2000 in Sète. The museum exhibits a wide range of artists from all over the world and creates shows that question the boundaries of contemporary art.

Hervé Di Rosa has been a member of the Académie des Beaux Arts since 2022.