

GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA

PARIS - BRUXELLES

Enfances

September 13 - October 21, 2023

91, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Paris 8^e



Patrick Faigenbaum
Une famille dans le train entre Kolkata et Bandel, 2014
Inkjet pigment print: 62,5 x 62,5 cm (23⁹/₁₆ x 23⁹/₁₆ in.)
Courtesy of the artist and the Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris/Bruxelles

Galerie Nathalie Obadia is delighted to present *Enfances (Childhoods)*, a group exhibition bringing together the works of nineteen artists represented by the gallery. Photographs, sculptures, paintings, drawings and installations converse around a common theme: childhood. We gradually leave behind the real world, as we wander through hostile and fantastical territories.

In *The Painter of Modern Life (Le Peintre de la vie moderne, 1863)*, Charles Baudelaire defines children as “creatures of sensations” for whom “sensibility occupies the entire being.” Most modern artists and writers draw their inspiration from the French poet, trying to renew with the child’s profound and joyous curiosity. However, children’s social status has not always been what it is today: adults have often projected their ideologies, fantasies and worldviews onto them. The way we look at children is thus deeply linked to the times in which they lived. Their representations in painting and literature attest to their different evolutions.

So what does it mean to be a child in the 20th and 21st centuries? How do contemporary artists tackle this timeless subject? The exhibition *Enfances* is steeped in the universe of these lives of sensations. The figure of the child appears alone or in a group, mysteriously slipping away, sometimes even splintering under the artist’s brushstroke. When it is absent, a whole iconographic universe replaces it: accessories, stuffed toys, dolls, and other games punctuate these realms of fantasy, reflecting the child’s boundless imagination.

Childhood is also the moment when we discover what it means to be of this world. The question of the body is omnipresent in the exhibition. The artists explore its construction in the diverse landscapes of today's world – from screen-saturated realms to territories fraught with poverty, war and violence. The question of identity, of nascent memory, of an evolving mental space is at the heart of the artists' preoccupations. What does it mean to be young in Europe, Asia, America, Africa and the Middle East today? How do we find our place in the chaos of the world? These different mises en scène subtly capture the poetry of the sometimes complex daily life of children around the globe.

Beyond the geographical journeys it proposes, *Enfances* offers us a glimpse into invented worlds where fantasy thrives. This deep dive into the heart of childhood can bring back memories from the distant and not so distant past. In these real or dreamed universes, composed of colorful hybrid creations, the spectator touches "the genius of childhood" with his very eyes, that is "a genius for whom no aspect of life has become stale."¹

Enfances was conceived by Maimiti Cazalis, Executive Director of Galerie Nathalie Obadia.

With works by Brook Andrew, Valérie Belin, Carole Benzaken, Luc Delahaye, Patrick Faigenbaum, Roger-Edgar Gillet, Laura Henno, Fabrice Hyber, Seydou Keïta, Sophie Kuijken, Benoît Maire, Laure Prouvost, Antoine Renard, Sarkis, Andres Serrano, Joris Van de Moortel, Agnès Varda, Wang Keping and Jérôme Zonder.

¹Baudelaire Charles, *The Painter of Modern Life and Other Essays*, Phaidon Press, 1995

Paris Saint-Honoré

Enfances

September 13 - October 21, 2023

Luc Delahaye

November 6 - December, 2023

Paris Cloître Saint-Merri

Andres Serrano

Doom of Beauty

September 2 - October 21, 2023

Paris Cloître Saint-Merri II

Joris Van de Moortel

'Why do you tear me from myself?'

a tête-à-tête with Marsyas

September 2 - October 21, 2023

Bruxelles

Hoda Kashiha

Another world is waiting for us

September 7 - October 21, 2023

Jorge Queiroz

October 26 - December 16, 2023

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