



PRIMORDIAL SOUP

TIPHAINE CALMETTES

Exhibition from 20 May to 23 July 2022

Opening: Thursday 19 May, 4pm onwards.

Curator: Émilie Renard

PRESS RELEASE

From Wednesday to Friday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free Entrance

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BÉTONSALON
CENTRE D'ART &
DE RECHERCHE

Tiphaine Calmettes creates a new series of sculptures that allow you to sit down to taste a drop of kombucha, drink a flower tea kept warm in a gargoyle's stomach, help yourself to broth from a hollow amidst bread crusts, smell the warm redolence of all this cuisine, follow trickles of water as they dribble out of a monster's mouth, observe ochre light filtered through a dried kombucha starter, feel the earthy cavities of the surfaces around....

These sculptures are assemblages of previous experiences, works or rejects that have not completed their metamorphosis: under their own inertia and due to wear and tear, some materials give way under their own weight, or seep, crack or evaporate as they are sensitive to heat. All of them are doomed to be further transformed after the exhibition. Whether shaped by skilful hands or left in their initial state, they undergo involuntary transformations on their own. These versatile shapes have not only ingested the various strata of the artist's work, they have also experienced motifs from distant periods—anthropomorphic utensils, stony plants, animals with pouring lips—an entire monstrous bestiary drawn from a sort of imaginary natural history.

“ Primordial soup ” is a term associated with a scientific theory that says that life on Earth is the result of spontaneous generation within a milieu warm and sticky enough to allow life to arise. A whole ecosystem sustains itself in this primordial soup. These sensory sculptures that seem to have emerged from a troglodyte kitchen, turn Bétonsalon into an inhabitable place. Thanks to them, Bétonsalon settles into a sort of telluric domesticity.

An exhibition coproduced by AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions for the 2020 prize.

Biography

Tiphaine Calmettes works towards inhabiting and heightening the fictions that shape our relationship to a territory. Using sculpture, installation and performance, she seeks to create movement in her shapes as well as her research. This is a way of envisaging the production process like a living organism, directly related to the spaces that welcome her productions, the people they encounter and vice-versa. She primarily focuses on developing a lifeform and organicity in her works. She then went on to encompass the idea of animating artefacts, both in their relationship to usage as well as to their environment or, in other words, she developed an interest in the way the production of objects and architectures are driven both by living species, or the energies that inhabit them, as well as by the physical or psychic interactions they develop with their surroundings.

Her creative process is a conversation with the history of skills and their reactivation in the present context. Thus, attentive to the context in which her work is produced, Tiphaine Calmettes collaborates with various craftspeople (rock artists, alchemists...). Informal, reversible, ephemeral techniques serve to animate the lifeform through performative actions. Her objects and narratives take the form of “edible stories” brought to life by revisiting sharing and commensality through flavours and encounters.

Tiphaine Calmettes (born in 1988) lives and works in Aix-en-Provence. She won the AWARE Prize in 2020. Her works have been exhibited notably at La Panacée MOCO (Montpellier), the Zoo gallery (Nantes), the Kunstwerk Carlshütte (Büdelsdorf, Germany), the École normale supérieure in Lyon, with the Biennale de Lyon 2019. In 2020-2021, she exhibited at the La Borne Contemporary Ceramics Centre (Henrichemont), the International Art and Landscape Centre–Île de Vassivière (Beaumont-du-Lac); she was also awarded a residency at the Laboratoires d’Aubervilliers. In 2022 Tiphaine Calmettes participated in the group exhibition Pionnières at the Zoo gallery in Nantes.



Sculptures in production for the exhibition *Primordial soup* by Tiphaine Calmettes,
Les 8 Pillards, Marseille, 2022
Photo : Tiphaine Calmettes.



View of the collective work of *La terre embrasse le sol* by Tiphaine Calmettes,
ENS Lyon, 2019, raw earth.
Photo: Tiphaine Calmettes.



View of Tiphaine Calmettes's exhibition *Par le chant grondant des vibrations autour*, Centre international d'art et du paysage, Île de Vassivière, 2021.
© Adagp, Paris, 2022. Photo: Tiphaine Calmettes.



Kombucha mother in the studio of Tiphaine Calmettes during her residency at the Centre d'art contemporain d'Ivry - le Crédac, 2021.
© Adagp, Paris, 2022. Photo : Studio Kiösk.



Kombucha mothers in the studio of Tiphaine Calmettes during her residency at the Centre d'art contemporain d'Ivry - le Crédac, 2021.
© Adagp, Paris, 2022. Photo: Kiösk.

Openings

- Press and professionals
Thursday 19 May, 10 - 12 am
- Public
Thursday 19 May, 4 pm

Next exhibitions

- Judith Hopf
From 22 September to 10 December
2022
Exhibition co-produced with le Plateau,
Frac Île-de-France
- Katia Kameli
From 19 January to 8 April 2023
Exhibition co-produced with Institut
des Cultures d'Islam, Paris

Visits

Group visits are led by a mediator. They are free of charge, subject to reservation and adapted to all audiences. Any group requiring a guided tour in a foreign language or in sign language can let us know four days beforehand.

All our activities are free, upon registration :
publics@betonsalon.net

About Bétonsalon

Bétonsalon develops activities in collaborative ways, with local, national and international organisations. Our program includes solo or collective exhibitions, with emerging, reemerging, confirmed or forgotten artists, multidisciplinary events with the best exchange quality, actions and research focused on mediation and experimental pedagogy, research and creation residencies, outdoor projects engaged with local visitors and structures, and other actions which are yet to be defined.

Bétonsalon is a nonprofit organisation established in 2003. Inserted within the Université de Paris campus, 13th arrondissement since 2007, Bétonsalon is the only Centre of art certified to be located inside a French University.

Practical informations

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Access:
Metro 14 & RER C:
Bibliothèque François-Mitterrand

Free entrance
from Wednesday to Friday,
from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.,
Saturday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

All events are free of charge.
The entire space is wheelchair-accessible. Group visits are free of charge with advanced booking.

Please check our program on social media. Twitter · Facebook · Instagram:
[@betonsalon](https://www.instagram.com/betonsalon)

Press contact

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With the support of

Bétonsalon – Centre for Art and Research is supported by the City of Paris, the Île-de-France Regional Board of Cultural Affairs – Ministry of Culture, the Île-de-France Region and the Université de Paris.

Bétonsalon is cultural institution of the City of Paris, certified institution of national interest by the Ministry of Culture.

The ADAGP – Société française d'auteurs pour les arts visuels develops partnerships with Bétonsalon for the ADAGP & Bétonsalon Grant.

Bétonsalon is member of d.c.a. / association for the development of art centers in France, Tram, réseau art contemporain Paris/ Île-de-France, Arts en résidence – Réseau national and BLA! – national association of mediation professionals in contemporary art.

