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HEART

ORLA BARRY

Exhibition:

from 18 October to 20 December 2025

Press opening: Friday 17 October, from 5pm to 6pm

Public opening: Friday 17 October, from 6pm to 9pm

Performance: "Spin Spin Scheherazade",

with Einat Tuchman & Orla Barry, at 7pm

Curator: Émilie Renard

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday to Friday, from 11am to 7pm

Saturday, from 2pm to 7pm · Free entrance

9 esplanade Pierre Vidal-Naquet 75013 Paris

M14 & RER C: Bibliothèque François-Mitterrand

www.betonsalon.net

+33.(0)1.45.84.17.56 · info@betonsalon.net

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Deeply rooted in her activity as a shepherd and her flock of pedigree Lleyn sheep flock on her farm in Wexford, Orla Barry's work offers a singular and comprehensive reflection on the living conditions of a rebellious, feminist "Punk Bo-Peep", subverting the gendered stereotypes and patriarchal norms that shape the representations of the farming milieu, either idealized or silenced. Attentive to the economy of the natural materials used in her work (wool, horn, felt, wood) and to the gestures of the operative chain that underpins the production of her works, Orla Barry highlights the relationships of solidarity, trust and care that she maintains on a daily basis with her "companion species", but also of (inter-) dependence with the economic structures (auctions, competition) that condition their existences.

The exhibition will feature a selection of works by Orla Barry, centred around the performative installation *Spin Spin Scheherazade* (2019). Composed of various modules, including a podium, printed texts on panels, sculptures and audio recordings, *Spin Spin Scheherazade* will be activated at several moments by performer and long-time collaborator Einat Tuchman. In a narrative combining auto-fiction, and auto-ethnography, the text looks back at the situations, obstacles and dilemmas that Orla Barry faced when she decided to turn to a pastoral life.

Tracing the various stages in the cycle of breeding, selecting, selling and showing sheep, and bearing witness to the systemic sexism within predominantly male circles of sociability, these narratives are marked by a peculiar sensitivity to the world, shaped by a form of mutualism which philosopher Vinciane Despret and ecologist Michel Meuret have identified as the source and product of reciprocal learning¹. Through references to popular characters (*Scheherazade*, *Rapunzel*, *Bo-Peep*²) and the polysemy of a language that thwarts all semantic fixation, Orla Barry explores our relationship to rurality and its vernacular cultures, while questioning our understanding of its social, political and ecological realities.

✎ This exhibition is supported by Culture Ireland and is in collaboration with MACS, the Museum of Contemporary Arts at Grand-Hornu, Belgium.

1 Vinciane Despret and Michel Meuret, "Composer avec les moutons. Lorsque les brebis apprennent à leurs bergers à leur apprendre", Avignon, Cardère Publishing, 2016.

2 Bo-Peep is a popular Anglo-Saxon character described in the nursery rhyme "Little Bo-Peep", which tells the story of a shepherdess who lost her flock of sheep after falling asleep.

Agenda

Free entrance, full programme on
www.betonsalon.net

- Friday 17, Thursday 23
et Friday 24 October, at 7pm
Spin Spin Scheherazade
with Einat Tuchman & Orla Barry
Performance (in French, duration 65')

Biographies

Orla Barry (Ireland, 1969) is both an artist and a shepherd. She teaches sculpture and performance at SETU (South East Technological University). After living in Brussels for 16 years, she decided to move to her father's farm in rural Wexford where, alongside her artistic activity, she keeps a flock of Lleyn sheep. Through performances and video and sound installations, her work deals with the physicality and poetics of oral language, drawing on the correspondences and tensions between the art practice and the farming environment in rural Ireland. Drawing on non-linear narratives imbued with research methodologies akin to autoethnography, her work addresses the history and semantics of words through an approach to writing and speaking that aims for a physical and embodied understanding of language as a visual form.

Her work has recently been shown in international exhibitions including MAC's Grand Hornu (2024), Mu.Zee in Ostend (2019), Quetzal Art Centre (2017), Mothers Tankstation (2014), Museu Bernardo in Lisbon (2011), Irish Museum of Modern Art (2006), Camden Arts Centre in London (2005), W139 in Amsterdam (2005), S.M.A.K. in Ghent (2005), Argos (2002). Her performances have been presented as part of Dublin Theatre Festival (2023/2016), Performatik 17: The Brussels Biennial of Performance Art at Argos (2017), the WoWmen Festival KAAI (2020) and Playground at the M-Museum in Leuven (2019), the south London Gallery (2013), Bozar Brussels (2013), and Saturday Live, Tate Modern (2008).

Einat Tuchman (1968, Belgium/Israel) is a performer and choreographer. She is primarily interested in dance as an extension of the ordinary, of familiar movements and gestures drawn from everyday life. She focuses on themes such as human behaviour, communication and aspects of life that lie just beneath the surface of reality, while exploring the complex relationship between the self and the social environment in relation to territoriality and property. She collaborates with artistic institutions such as Beursschouwburg, KVS, Hiros, Buda, Pianofabriek... and is part of the political and artistic movement "State of the Arts". She performs with Orla Barry, Guy de Cointet, Needcompany, Alain Platel, among others.



Orla Barry, "Spin Spin Scheherazade", 2019, installation, performance and sound piece 60', variable dimension, as part of the exhibition "Orla Barry. Shaved Rapunzel & La Petite Bergère Punk", MACS Grand-Hornu, 2024. MACS Grand-Hornu Collection © Orla Barry / ADAGP Paris, 2025. Credits: MACS Grand-Hornu 2024.



Orla Barry, "Spin Spin Scheherazade", 2019, installation, performance and sound piece, 60'.
 Performed by Einat Tuchman, at M-Museum during Playground Festival, Louvain, 2019
 © Orla Barry / ADAGP Paris, 2025. Credits: Sabam Bruxelles. Photo: Steven Decroos.



Orla Barry and Einat Tuchman with the toaster during the "Spin Spin Scheherazade" performance, Wexford Art Center, Ireland, June 2023 © Orla Barry / ADAGP Paris, 2025. Photo: Claudio Nego.



"Spin Spin Scheherazade", 2019, performed by Einat Tuchman at Mu.ZEE / TAZ Festival, Ostende, Belgium, 2019 © Orla Barry / ADAGP Paris, 2025. Photo: Els Soenen.



"Spin Spin Scheherazade", 2019, performed by Einat Tuchman at Mu.ZEE / TAZ Festival, Ostende, Belgium, 2019 © Orla Barry / ADAGP Paris, 2025. Photo: Els Soenen.



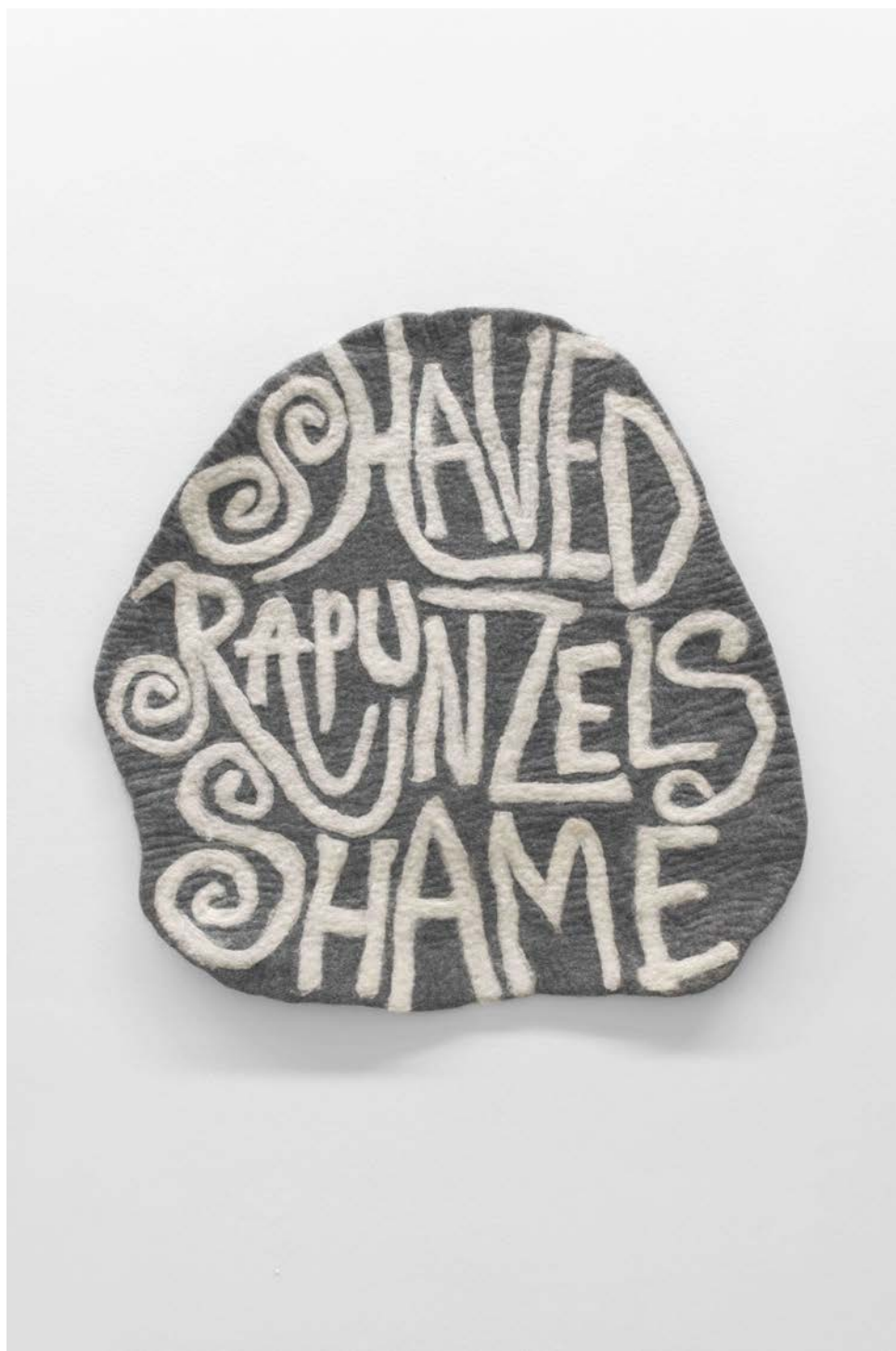
© Orla Barry / ADAGP Paris, 2025. Photo: Courtesy of the artist.



"Shaved Rapunzel's Shepherds", hand-painted shepherd's chopsticks,
 wood, buffalo horn, ram's horn, various sizes, 2019
 © Orla Barry / ADAGP Paris, 2025. Credit: MACS Grand-Hornu.



“Shaved Rapunzel’s Shepherds”, hand-painted shepherd’s chopsticks,
wood, buffalo horn, ram’s horn, various sizes, 2019
© Orla Barry / ADAGP Paris, 2025. Credit: MACS Grand-Hornu.



"Shaved Rapunzel's Shame", felted raw wool from Gotland and Merino, 2023
© Orla Barry / ADAGP Paris, 2025. Photo: Isabelle Arthuis.



"Form is Destroyed", 2024. Felted raw wool from Tiroler Bergschaf, Lleyn, Merino and Drenthe Hearh sheep. Collection Musée des Arts contemporains au Grand-Hornu. © Orla Barry / ADAGP Paris, 2025. Photo: Isabelle Arthuis.



"Frogs Are Female Toads", felted raw wool from Hebridean, Tiroler Bergschaf and Merino, 200 x 80 cm, 2023. © Orla Barry / ADAGP Paris, 2025.
Photo: Isabelle Arthuis.

Upcoming

A project by Jean-Alain Corre
in collaboration with Gaëlle Obiégly
“Hibou TV Show”
From 30 January to 18 April 2026
Opening: Thursday 29 January,
from 6pm to 9pm

Practical information

Bétonsalon
centre for art and research
9 esplanade Pierre Vidal-Naquet
75013 Paris
+33 (0)1 45 84 17 56
info@betonsalon.net
www.betonsalon.net

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Free entrance
from Wednesday to Friday,
from 11 am to 7 pm
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All events are free of charge.
The entire space is wheelchair-
accessible. Group visits are free
of charge with advanced booking.

Please check our programme
on social media. Instagram · LinkedIn:
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Press contact

Sarah Bidet
presse@betonsalon.net
+33 (0)1 45 84 17 56

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