

Tony Oursler

OLIVIER VARENNE

artgenève

Wednesday 27th – Sunday 31st January 2021

Booth D22



DETAIL: '59 (Carol)

The recognition of their existence [fairies] will jolt the material twentieth century mind out of its heavy ruts in the mud, and will make it admit that there is a glamour and mystery to life.

– **Arthur Conan Doyle.**

It isn't by getting out of the world that we become enlightened, but by getting into the world...by getting so tuned in that we can ride the waves of our existence and never get tossed because we become the waves.

— **Ken Kesey.**

OLIVIER VARENNE is delighted to announce his first independent participation in *artgenève* where he will be presenting a new body of work by Tony Oursler developed especially for the fair. Olivier has been a long-time admirer of the artist since being introduced to his work during an internship at Laura Carpenter's gallery, Santa Fe, in 1993. He later co-curated Oursler's solo show at Museum of Old and New Art, Mona, in 2019.

In this solo presentation of works with Olivier, Oursler, a pioneer of video art and master of surrealistic installation, has created a haunting group of figures enigmatically charged with archetypal images and characters. These evocative figures – reminiscent of a fairy, a witch, a joker – inspire the viewer to dwell on apparitions and transpositions, setting the imagination on a magical journey. The characters are undefinable, they do not comply with conventional parameters and their moving talking faces and disruptive gazes are in turn curious, unsettling and enchanting.

Oursler explores proprioception (the perception of awareness of the position and movement of the body) and the way the human face and body expresses identity and thought. The dissonance in his work between moving image, object and sound bring into relief the viewer's own physicality and surroundings. Oursler's videos often fragment and distort the face (and thus the legibility of expression) by luminous disembodied eyes or mouths onto inanimate objects and sculptures. In these works, the figures' vocalisation reflects their interest in three important historic turning points in recent history, '59, '69, '79. These sculpture weave sophisticated narratives that draw on pop art, urban legends, folk tales, science fiction and the occult to explore the conjecture of science, nature, and spiritualism.

Works:

'59

(Carol)

2020

Cloth, resin, electronics, steel, acrylic, computer monitor, miniature flowers

165 x 20.3 x 20.3cm. (65 x 8 x 8in.)

9.5kg. (21lb)

'69

(Ken)

2020

Cloth, resin, electronics, steel, acrylic, computer monitor, miniature bells

91.5 x 38 x 30.5cm. (36 x 15 x 12in.)

7.8kg. (17.25lb)

'79

(Victoria)

2020

Cloth, resin, electronics, steel, acrylic, computer monitor, LED light, crystal

178 x 20.3 x 20.3cm. (70 x 8 x 8in.)

9.5kg. (21lb)

Works by Oursler can be found in museums, public and private collections worldwide, including: Eli Broad Family Foundation, Los Angeles; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Cartier Foundation, Paris; LACMA, Los Angeles; Magasin 3, Stockholm; Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki; MOMA, NY; National Museum of Osaka; Tate Gallery, London; Whitney Museum of American Art, NY.

AN EXTENSIVE RETROSPECTIVE OF OURSLER'S WORK WILL OPEN IN JANUARY 2021 AT THE KAOHSIUNG MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, TAIPEI.

CURRENTLY, OURSLER'S EXHIBITION *HYPNOSE* IS RUNNING AT THE MUSÉE D'ARTS DE NANTES UNTIL MARCH 14TH 2021.

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'79 (Victoria)

