

PRESS RELEASE

# Radouan Zeghidour: Jian

12th January – 23rd February 2017

Private view and opening reception: 11th January 2017, 6pm

This January artist Radouan Zeghidour presents his first solo show in England at the Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix gallery, offering visitors a remarkable encounter with the past and the present, with traces of what has been and an intimation of things that may never-yet-come-to be. His work presents a series of pieces that explore an archaeology of forgetting. His works are composed of memory, fragment and monument, created through sculptures that are at once forbidden discoveries made in subterranean spaces and fragmented remembering's of past places that present a veiled, temporal encounter with forgotten spaces and objects as they intersect with our present.

Zeghidour said: "The title for the exhibition comes from a Chinese legendary bird, the Jian, which has only one wing, and only one eye. To be able to fly, he must find a companion, since it is only with two birds together, that they will have two wings, two eyes, and thus will be able to move. This legendary bird evokes a lot, love, the idea of the couple, the need to bond with others. But also, and this is what I see in relation to the exhibition here, something that [...] represents the need for the present to feed on the past in order to be able to fly to the future."

Radouan Zeghidour's practice encompasses a diverse range of references and media - drawing on his attraction towards the dark and forgotten spaces of Paris. The sculptures made in these spaces are ephemeral, hidden installations, often built with the materials found on site. Many of his works are clandestine and illegal; destroyed every time they are found, and existing only as pictures, fragments, memories and video works. Mythological themes tie into his practice, which emerges from the underworld to the surface, different, changed and full of secrets. Building on these lost and hidden temporal works, Jian plays with the idea of ruins: the ruins of the past, the ruins of the present and the imaginary ruins of a future time. These works of imagined ruin, restored memory and archaeological (re)creation are constructed in various materials, from bas-reliefs, to monumental architectural sculptures evoking the doors, and structures of the subterranean, here constructed in polystyrene, polished aluminium, plaster and cement. The final works in the show are composed of found objects and fragile matter, arranged under a Clepsydra, so that they disappear from the gallery little by little; sculptures torn from dark spaces, slowly fading in the light – material dissolving into memory.

Keiko Rochaix, the gallerist and curator of Jian, says of Zeghidour's works: "Grossly primitive and infinitely precious at the same time, his works are visually grasping, hitting the viewer at first sight. And that is before one digs into the conceptual sides of the body of his oeuvres; all the works are held together by almost enigmatic, other-worldly notions. Radouan's talent as a visual artist is that he recreates/produces unearthly ideas with such base, physical, tangible materials. And that is exactly what you see in Jian: the notion of ephemerality, somehow physically present in the space of the Gallery."

Zeghidour's previous works include the solo shows Hypogea, at the Galerie Catinca Tabacaru, New-York in 2016; DNAP, at Beaux-arts de Paris, France in 2014 and Heterotopie, Beaux-Arts de Paris, France in 2013 all of which question ideas of the hidden, the obscure, the forbidden, the ephemerality of things and the prevalence of the ruin or the fragment in relation to society and its many identities and constructed memories. He has also participated in several group shows, including Explorers I, Loft 19, Galerie Suzanne Tarasiève, Paris, and Explorers II, Londonewcastle Project Space, London, both in 2016. He was born in 1989, he lives and works in Paris, a city that has enmeshed itself in many of his works. He graduated from the Beaux-Arts de Paris in 2016 and received the Thaddaeus Ropac prize in 2014.

Please join us at the celebratory reception for the very first exhibition for the gallery, on Wednesday, 11th of January, from 6 to 9 pm.

For further information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:

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Title: Radouan Zeghidour: Jian

Address: 19 Goulston St, London, E1 7TP

Dates: 12th January – 23rd February 2017

Private View: Wednesday 11th January 2017

Opening Hours: Wednesday to Saturday, 11am – 6pm

Travel: Aldgate East, Aldgate, Liverpool Street, Whitechapel

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