



Rob Miles *Snakescreen*, 2024 | oil on wood | 135 x 113 cm

Rob Miles

The Bird Kitchen

7 March – 24 May 2025

Opening
thursday 6 March from 4 to 8 p.m

GALERIE CATHERINE PUTMAN

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At the Amsterdam Zoo, a space filled with feathers, anatomical plates, boxes of eggs, and disturbing knives magnetised to a wall... What is it? “It’s the bird kitchen!” a voice replies: an uncanny association of two words that do not go well together. It is probably this paradoxical spectacle that Rob Miles had come to look for, as a regular visitor to the Ménagerie at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. In his essay “Ape Theatre” (1992), John Berger wrote regarding another zoo: “In Basel we are watching a strange theatre in which, on both sides of the glass, the performers may believe they are an audience. On both sides the drama begins with resemblance and the uneasy relationship that exists between resemblance and closeness.”

For his new exhibition, Rob Miles first presents a series of artworks staging monkeys who are contemplating their window, and reptiles, amphibians, and insects in their vivariums. The spirit of Gilles Aillaud hovers over these paintings. A line links up the paintings and drawings that Rob Miles defines as his “line of enquiry”: it escapes his pencil or paintbrush when he represents himself as he draws, or takes the form of snakes in his images of zoos. This line is like the image of the drawing.

A frame cut out of wood repeats the silhouette of a screen with flattened perspective, at the margins of life and representation. On this medium, in a free and spirited gesture, Rob Miles has adorned the panels of the screen with images of snakes at the Jardin des Plantes. For inspiration, he looked closely at the composition on Japanese and Korean screens, namely chaekgeori, similar to Western cabinets of curiosities of the Renaissance. To the ears of the musician that he is, the title of the work, *Snakescreen*, sounds like “smoke screen” – a way of suggesting that there is more here than meets the eye. This artwork is among the most recent and free developments from a series of paintings based on numerous sketches made through observation at the Jardin des Plantes.

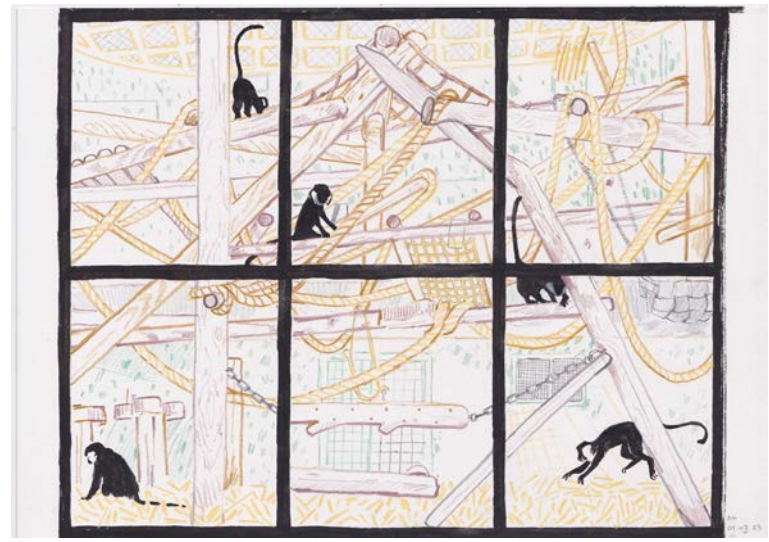
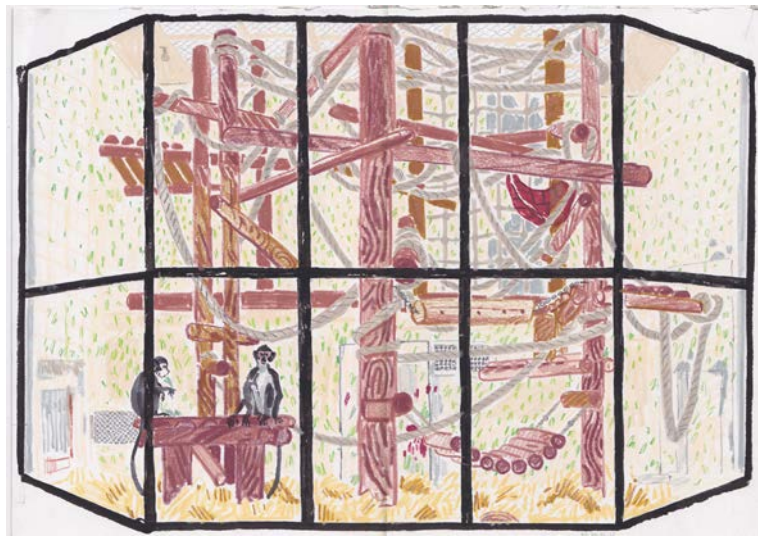
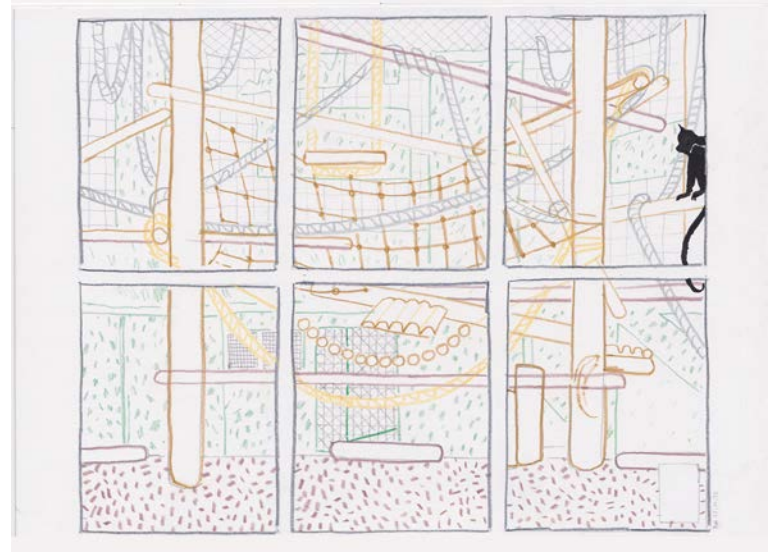
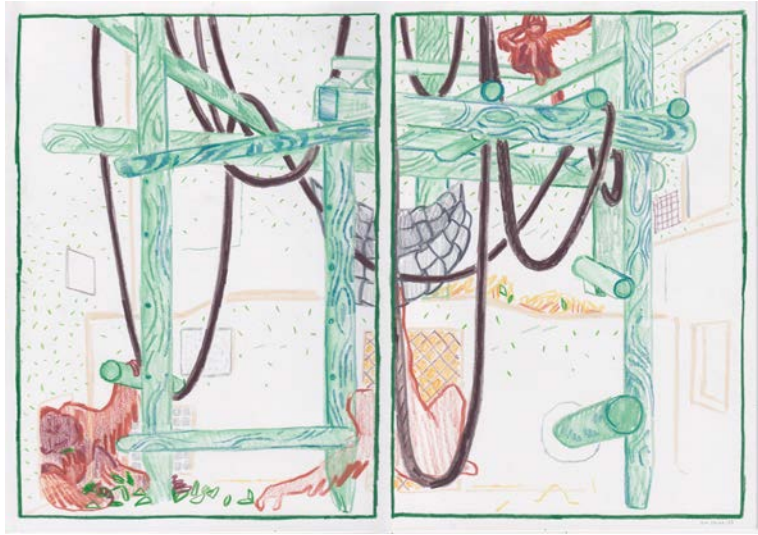
Another painting shows the monkey enclosure from a bird’s-eye view. Everything is shown simultaneously, on a single plane. The main ‘scene’ is surrounded by a gallery of images, in the manner of old geographical maps or medieval paintings. The gaze circulates among the riggings that serve as playgrounds for monkeys, another appearance of the “line of enquiry”. “But where are the monkeys?” children say. “But where are the monkeys?” ask visitors contemplating Rob Miles’ painting, in the same way. They are elsewhere. Rob Miles seeks to paint the invisible.

Another room is dedicated to human activities: a swimming pool, a kitchen, a fashion shoot... Based on drawings of a mini-golf course *Hastings Pirate Golf* and hot springs in equally serpentine forms *Spanish Hot Springs*, other lines leap out at us, forming the curves of waterfalls. Rob Miles developed these images in the form of wood marqueteries: puzzle pieces that he later used as stamps. The density of the paint heightened by effects produced in monotype provide delicate variations. These works bear witness to research in progress, which Rob Miles is currently developing, from cutouts to perspectives. Other settings, other backstages...

Anaël Pigeat



Rob Miles Singerie, 2024 | oil on canvas | 141 x 188 cm



Rob Miles Singerie, 2023 | colored pencil, graphite and ink on paper | 30 x 42 cm (each)



Rob Miles *Spanish Cold Springs 2*, 2024
acrylic on paper | 60 x 30 cm



Photo de Snehargho Ghosh - Portrait of the *In Situ* serie

Born in London in 1987, Rob Miles graduated from the Royal College of Arts in London. He has been living and working in Paris since 2015.

Rob Miles approaches the same subject successively or simultaneously with several techniques : paintings, drawings, collages, lithographs and cut wood. Using both observation and graphic abstraction, Rob Miles makes different viewpoints coexist in the same plane. This fragmentation is a key feature of his work.

His artworks gives us several possibilities for 'access' to the space, to the figures or objects represented and, setting forms aside, to the subject itself. It is not a question of twisting and deforming reality but one of bringing out features that amuse, intrigue or interest him. Rob Miles approaches his everyday environment as if he were at the theatre, whose etymology is 'a place for looking attentively'. Life is played out in the spaces that he draws.

Rob Miles was selected for Révélations Emerige in 2020, and his work was notably exhibited at the Seoul National University Museum of Art in Korea in 2022. He was in residence at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris in 2023-2024.



Rob Miles *Spanish Hot Springs*, 2025 | painted wood mosaic | 38 x 15 cm

FORMATION

2013 - 2015 : MA Fine Art Printmaking, The Royal College of Art, Londres

2010 - 2013 : BA Fine Art: Print & Time Based Media, Wimbledon College of Art, UAL, Londres

EXHIBITIONS

2024

- Galerie Getekend, Heerenveen, Pays-Bas
- *Accrochage des artistes de la galerie*, Galerie Catherine Putman, Paris
- *Au Bloc! Operating Theatres*, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris
- Art Paris, Galerie Catherine Putman, Grand Palais Ephémère, Paris
- *Au delà du miroir, vingt ans de figurations parisiennes*, Galerie T&L, Paris

2023

- Drawing Now, Galerie Catherine Putman, Carreau du Temple, Paris
- *Opening Lines*, Galerie Catherine Putman, Paris

2022

- *Daily life not so simple*, Seoul national university Museum of Art, Corée
Commissaire : Françoise Docquier
- *Orbe*, group exhibition, galerie Ariane C-Y, Paris
- Artist presented in focus at Drawing Now Paris on the Galerie Catherine Putman stand

2021

- *Novembre à Vitry*, Galerie Municipale Jean-Collet, Vitry-sur-Seine
- *My Own World*, Tajan Gallery, Paris
- *Mythologies Quotidiennes 3*, The Blind Lady, Paris
- *Abrakadabra Comme Des Castors*, La Cabane de Georgina, Marseille
- *Information Only &*, Galerie Jeune Creation, Romainville
- *Home Perspectives*, Mayfly Gallery, Espace Christine Peugeot, Paris
- *I Do Not Care*, Gallery A2Z, curated by de Marianne Dollo
- *Une Monde à Votre Image*, Revelations Emerige, Hotel Des Arts, Toulon

2020

- *Une Monde à Votre Image*, 7ème Edition de la Bourse Révélations Emerige, Paris

2019

- *Litho-Kielce Triennial of Lithography*, Kielce, Poland
- *Dear Crocodile*, Galerie Premier Regard

2018

- *Cschiïï*, curated by Marine Lefebvre and Atelier Coop , Treize dix Gallery, Paris
- *Back To The Drawing Board*. Reid Hall, Paris
- *Interiors*. Vortex Gallery, Huddersfield, UK

2017

- *Teacher ! There's Too Much To Learn...* Galerie Premier Regard, Paris. Selectioné par Gilles Fuchs
- *Hors Cadre*. Galerie des Grands Voisins, Paris
- *The World Is So Small It's Enormous*. Reid Hall, Paris

2016

- *SUBJECT MATTER*. Benevolent Association of Excellent Solutions, London
- *Histoires pas naturelles*, Château de Rochebonne, Theizé, France

2011 – 2015

- *Royal Academy Summer Exhibition*, London
- *FOLD> Portfolio*. Impact 9 Print conference, Hangzhou, China
- *PR!NT: Art in Print Today*. La Cambre Galerie, Bruxelles
- *SHOW 2015* : Royal College of Art Degree Show, London
- Ruth Borchard Self Portrait Prize. Kings Place London, and Pallant House, Chichester
- *Draw The Curtains*. Curator and exhibitor. DIG Space Lewisham, London
- *Transition exhibition, interdisciplinary new media art*, Red Gallery, London
- Gravure exposée pour *INVISIBLE*, Art About the Unseen, Hayward Gallery, London
- *Everything must go! Where?* The Russet Gallery. Hackney Downs Studio, London
- *MILESKM*. International collaboration. La Tabacalera, Madrid

PRICES

- 2015 : Anthony Dawson Young Printmakewr Award – Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers, Londres
- 2015 : Ruth Borchard Self Portrait Prize – acquisition de l'oeuvre : Next Generation Collection, Londres
- 2015 : Drawing & Etching International Student Prize, PigPrints, Milan, Italie
- 2013 : Retreat Prize – Wimbledon College of Art, Londresw

RESIDENCIES

- 2023 - 2024 : Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris
- 2016 – 2019 : Visiting Practitioner, University of Kent Paris School of Arts & Culture, Paris
- 2016 : Visiting Artist Residence, Seacourt Print Workshop, Bangor, Northern Ireland



Rob Miles *Folded Kitchen*, 2023 | painted wood mosaic | 120 x 180 cm

ROB MILES NEWS

Parallelotopia

Group exhibition with Garance Matton

15 march – 24 april 2025

Conscious

12, rue de Normandie

75003 Paris

Drawing Now Paris

Galerie Catherine Putman stand

27-30 march 2025

Carreau du Temple

75003 Paris

CNES Space Observatory

« Cabinet d'art extra-terrestre »

Collective exhibition of works by 15 artists created through CNES creative residencies

28-30 march 2025

