

# GALERIE UNTITLED 1983

## **Antoine Wagner : Adaptation - a virtual work**

**From June 25th to September 10<sup>th</sup> 2020, GALERIE UNTITLED 1983 presents *Umstellung*, a virtual reality work by the Franco-American artist Antoine Wagner, accompanied by a selection of photographs.**

*Umstellung* is Antoine Wagner's first virtual reality work. The artist executed the work over the last few months when he found himself confined within the Catskill mountains in the region of Woodstock, two hours from New York City. The artwork evokes the importance of nature in the current context, as well as its extraordinary capacity for adaptation through time. In fact, "Adaptation" is the translation of the German title *Umstellung*.

While *Umstellung* makes reference to the continually changing character of nature, it also points to the artist's creative process as he was compelled to adapt to the current context of the pandemic. "I think that it is important to talk about art in times of crisis. The idea of adaptation has interested me for a long time, but the experience of these last few months has confirmed my contemplation," states Antoine Wagner.

For a duration of approximately twenty minutes, *Umstellung* immerses the spectator in an artificial "natural" environment made up of images captured using a drone and a camera, combined with sequences recorded by various artist friends. The result is a work that is both immersive and participative. Viewed through an Oculus headset, *Umstellung* guides the spectator through a succession of theatrical backdrops that mingle fact and fiction. Standing on a mirrored floor, the viewer is invited to embark on a quest for identity. This introspective circuit enables each spectator to make their own way through a reconstructed version of nature.

The sound, an integral part of the experience, plays a fundamental role in this inner-directed journey. Making it as three-dimensional as the visual experience was one of the great challenges for the artist. In 2013, Antoine Wagner set out on the traces of his illustrious ancestor, Richard Wagner, around Lake Zürich in

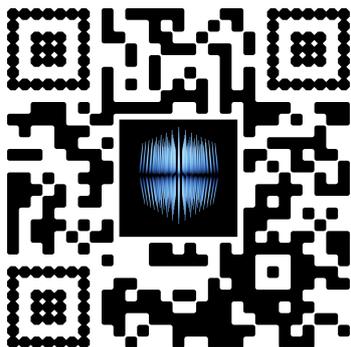
Switzerland, to better understand the influence of the mountain landscapes on the symphonic compositions by the Master of Bayreuth.

## **WORKS**

The exhibition at GALERIE UNTITLED 1983 also includes photographs by Antoine Wagner. They are a true antecedent to his virtual work, since the images evoke fictional landscapes. While nature is a constant source of inspiration in the artist's work, mythological narratives also constitute the basis for many of his works.

## **PREVIEW VIA QR CODE**

Displayed on the gallery window, a QR code makes it possible to download an excerpt of *Umstellung* using a smartphone. The intriguing sneak peek is overlaid by the artist's voice explaining his creative process.



OPENING on 25 June 2020 from 6 pm until 9pm

EXHIBITION: 26 June to 10 September 2020

GALERIE UNTITLED 1983

19, Rue du Nant

Geneva

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## **ABOUT ANTOINE WAGNER**

Born in Evanston, Illinois (USA) in 1982, Antoine Wagner is a multidisciplinary Franco-American artist who shares his time between Tyrol and Woodstock in New York State. Inspired by mythological narratives and the natural world, ~~the artist~~ delves into the themes of identity and spirituality as he explores the rapport that the spectator experiences with space and sound. The works of Antoine Wagner offer an alternative vision of reality that is as sublime as it is poetic.

## **ABOUT GALERIE UNTITLED 1983**

Located in the district of Les Eaux-Vives, Geneva, GALERIE UNTITLED 1983 is a contemporary art gallery founded in 2019 by Mighela Lorenceau. Specialising in the revival of figurative painting, GALERIE UNTITLED 1983 exhibits Swiss and foreign artists such as Dorian Büchi, Nick McPhail and Warner Williams. For its 4th exhibition, the gallery owner gave *carte blanche* to the Franco-American artist Antoine Wagner, who is presenting his first virtual reality work, *Umstellung*.

Before opening the gallery, Mighela Lorenceau - born in Lausanne to Italo-Egyptian parents - left to discover London and Paris, where she began a career in fashion with a major French house. However, her passion for art brought her to Geneva, Switzerland, where she opened a contemporary art gallery at the heart of Les Eaux-Vives. Here, she proposes an eclectic programme that changes according to her encounters and inclinations. After three first exhibitions consecrated to contemporary figurative painting, she is now experimenting with virtual reality through the work of Franco-American Antoine Wagner.