

PATRICIA DREYFUS

Patricia Dreyfus

Bruderholzallee 170, 4059 Basel, Switzerland

Phone +41 79 222 81 76

Web: www.patriciadreyfus.com

Patricia Dreyfus is a French-Swiss artist who lives between Basel and Berlin. Her diverse artistic practice includes drawing, sculpture and embroidery. At Art International Zurich, she presents an exclusive collection of hand-stitched embroideries. These intricate works engage in a thought-provoking dialogue between feminism and surrealism, placing imagination at the heart of her creative expression.

What distinguishes Patricia Dreyfus's work is the seamless blending of different media - drawing, embroidery, sculpture and photography - to create a distinctive universe populated by bodies, heads, faces and imagined narratives. She explains:

“My works, created through various techniques and materials, are inhabited by human forms and symbols. I reflect on themes such as origin, identity, and gender in an increasingly complex and unsettling world. I work in series, viewing each as part of a world deeply rooted in my personal experiences and observations. Through humour and irony, I aim to make these reflections more accessible.”

Born in Dakar, Senegal, in 1951, Patricia Dreyfus was raised in Paris in an environment where the future prospects of young girls appeared to be largely predetermined. At the age of 16, she made the decision to depart from her familial environment, motivated by a profound yearning for autonomy and exploration. She subsequently relocated to England and then to New York, where she engaged in various forms of employment in order to support herself. These experiences had a profound impact on her artistic sensibility and vision.

Returning to France in the early 1970s, she became involved in a committed intellectual circle where feminist struggles had a lasting impact on her perspective. She then undertook training in video editing and directing, after which she made films about artists such as Shirley Goldfarb, Boris Tissot and Roberto Matta. These films were screened alongside their exhibitions at the Centre Pompidou, the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris and other distinguished venues.

From 1982 to 1984, she refined her abilities in drawing and sculpture through her studies with Gregory Mazurovsky at the American Center and the Académie de la Grande Chaumière. Sculpture, particularly in the medium of bronze, emerged as a significant mode of expression.

Subsequently, she established her own film production company, which was awarded a prize at the Biarritz Festival in 1987. However, following the tragic loss of her youngest son in 1992, she relocated to Basel, subsequently leaving the film industry to focus exclusively on her artistic endeavours.

Following her relocation to Berlin in 2012, her artistic practice evolved to incorporate new media, with a particular emphasis on textiles, which have since become an integral component of her oeuvre.

Her work has been exhibited in collections across Switzerland, France and Germany.

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Patricia Dreyfus: Femme actuelle / Hand embroidery on cotton, 87 x 40 cm, 2023
Photography: Gerhard Kassner / Courtesy of Dreyfus, Basel

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VITA

Patricia Dreyfus, Born in Dakar, Senegal

- 1982 – 1984 Apprenticeship at studio Gregory Mazurovsky, Centre Américain and Académie de la Grande Chaumière, Paris
- 1972 – 1992 Documentary film in the range of art, music and economy
- 1992 – 2012 Lives and works as an artist in Basel
- Since 2012 Lives and works in Berlin

Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2024 S U S P E N D E D Magdalenenkapelle, Alter Friedhof, 31303 Burgdorf (31. August bis 20 Oktober 2024)
L' I M A G I N A I R E von Inseln und anderen Phantasmen (curated by Harald F. Theiss) L I N I E N 83A, Berlin
- 2023 3rd Prize 2023 for "Ce que disent les fleurs 1,2,3,4" Kunsthaus Lisa, Germany
KÖPFE UND MASKEN, Kunstverein Wunstorf, DE
S U S P E N D E D, Art week Berlin, L I N I E N 83A, Berlin
L'île imaginaire, Galerie RIVOLI#43, Brüssel, BE
Die imaginäre Insel, Kunstverein Kultur am Kelterberg, Stuttgart Vahingen, DE
- 2022 C A C H E (curated by Harald Theiss), L I N I E N 83A, Berlin - DE
WE ARE MULTITUDES, L I N I E N 83A, Berlin - DE
- 2021 lettre à moi-même #3, Kunstverein Wolfenbüttel - DE
- 2020/21 lettre à moi-même #2, Galerie Albrecht, Berlin - DE
- 2019 lettre à moi-même #1, Galerie Mesmer, Basel - CH
- 2012 HumanKapital, Häuser und Asche, Kunstverein Ebersberg, DE
Weggefährten, Kunstverein Ottobrunn, DE
Insomnia, Kunsthaus Norden, DE
- 2011 Insomnia, M54, Basel, CH
- 2010 Traces/Spuren, Karmeliterkirche, Wiener Neustadt, AT
- 2009 War Memories Reinvented, QCC Gallery, New York, USA

Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2022 NADELWERK, Klosterscheune Zehdenick, Zehdenick, DE
- 2020 AUSBLICKE, Galerie Albrecht, Berlin DE
- 2018 Das kleine Format, Atelierhof-Kreuzberg, Berlin, DE
- 2016 Kölner Liste , Cologne, DE
- 2013 Wer bist du?, Museum Schwarzenberg, DE
Umspann ZENTRALE, Galerie G11, Berlin, DE 2013
Kauf mich, Schwartzsche Villa Galerie, Berlin, DE
- 2011 Remise en Jeu, Kunsthalle Mulhouse, FR
- 2010 Regionale, Fabrik culture, Hégenheim, FR
- 2009 Regionale, Kunsthalle, Basel, CH

Art and documentary film

- « Aux sources du monde arabe », 1989, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris
- « La rencontre au sommet » 1987, Award for Best Documentary Film, Biarritz Film Festival in France
- « L'homme réparé », 1986, Centre de la Villette, Paris
- « Roberto Matta », 1984
- « Les Iles flottantes de Boris Tissot », 1983, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
- « Le rêve d'Aurélié », 1983
- « La Vie et l'Oeuvre de Shirley Goldfarb », 1982, Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris and Musée de Pontoise

Bibliographie

- 2017 Die imaginäre Insel (Schulz und Schulz)
- 2011 Insomnia (Benteli)
- 2004 Obstinate Creation (Linsenmann AG)
- 1996 Signes de têtes / Headsign (Mendiboure)

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Patricia Dreyfus: Ce que disent les fleurs 1, 2, 3, 4 / hand embroideries on cotton, 40x33cm each

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Patricia Dreyfus: Perdu en forêt / hand embroidery on cotton, 33x30cm, 2018