



PARIS
GROUP SHOW
MAY 10th – JUNE 18th 2016

KNOCK ON WOOD

« *Knock on wood* » : This superstition used to ward off bad luck goes way back. Persians and Egyptians already used it. The first would use it to put themselves under the protective power of Atar, fire genius. And the second because wood would broadcast a beneficial form of magnetism. Really early too, Celts attached a great mystic and spiritual power to trees. Like Shintoists in Asia today, wood has this sacred feature. By « touching » a tree, we draw its energy and vitality.

Les Frères Chapuisat, *In wood we trust*, courtesy galerie Mitterrand



Soul hymn, then rock brought to the top of the charts « *Knock on wood* » is an upbeat ode to the disco years. But beyond pop music and superstitions that push us to “knock on wood”, what of this medium in arts. Today artists know how to renew the preconceptions.

Support, and at the same time source of inspiration, wood is a full material in which artists from the whole world draw their inspirations from. That is what the Magda Danysz Gallery invites us to discover from the 10th of May with the group show « *Knock on Wood* » bringing together artists from Canada, Japan, Switzerland, China or France. Confirmed artists and young talents mix their creations in an exhibition where wood is in the heart of every creation, investing the gallery's space with sculptures, installations and murals.

« *Knock on Wood* » offers an immersion in this creative protean universe. The humorous title invites us to a relation almost tactile to wood (how many times haven't we dreamed of touching an artwork in a gallery or museum...). Material, source of the artwork or mere support, it captures our attention with its patinas, its varied colors, its varnishes more or less stressed or its raw and radical nature. From wood bones of the Trojan horse by Christian GONZENBACH, to the dark and voluptuous sculptures of WANG KEPING or even the « grave » stone *In wood we trust* by the FRERES CHAPUISAT, the extent of potential seems limitless. Certain artists even play impostors with fake wood... For you to unmask.

The gallery's choice is also to show the diversity of expression and the rich applications the artists make of it. Thus, we discover a creation of James McNABB such as a portrait of a reinvented skyline. The famous portuguese artist VHILS also achieves for the occasion an all new artwork in his favorite material. Composition of ancient doors and elements gathered in the streets of the cities he draws his inspiration from, abstract patterns mingle with human faces with deep gazes. (Masterpiece of the exhibition, it is presented a while at the Palais de Tokyo for the show *Choices* by Laurent Le Bon).

« *Knock on wood* » honors this noble material in all its facets. The artists' artworks reveal the artistic essence of the material and surprise us by their richness but also their humor.

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| Knock on Wood | Magda Danysz Gallery, 78 rue Amelot, Paris from May 10 th to June 18 th 2016 |
| Opening : | Tuesday May 10th 2016 from 6 to 9pm |
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