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*press release*

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**karen farkas**

**melissa coote**

***tête à tête***



**/// opening**  
**wednesday June 6th**  
**from 6 to 9 pm**  
**exhibition**  
**from June 7th to July 8th**

For this new exhibition, baudoin lebon presents us with two artists whose works seem to have little in common, except for a single subject : the body.

If massiveness and infinitesimally small are depicted by Melissa Coote, suggestion and movement are Karen Farkas's signature.

Both, however, seek balance between the interiority and the visible, between what is to be displayed and what is hidden. Melissa and Karen's artworks invite both to intimacy and distance.

This tête à tête leads to a dialogue, sharing the points of view of two women, two continents, two approaches and two technics.

## melissa coote

Giantism and deepness define Melissa's work.

Despite preconceived ideas, this commitment to a non traditional's scale leads us to question what is displayed before our eyes : the body's obviousness. Represented as topographic landscapes are, by highlighting each and every bump and hollow. To this facet, another one is added : the passage from interiority to the visible. The artist highlights the invisible, what we are too little acquainted with, or to which we do not pay much attention to, such as hands, hair, a torso or even a heart.



Hand I (gold), 2018, carbon pigment, mast resin, pastel on a pigment print on canvas, 60 x 80 cm, signed, titled and dated.

By sanctifying these forgotten body parts resembling to *vanité*, *memento mori*, Melissa Coote renews with art history and talisman's representation in the non Western culture at once.

This meeting between art and ritual provides her artworks the power to absorb and captivate the audience.

Melissa's work demands that our expectations rise to ordinary objects. She brings our attention to intuitive and the body's internal story.

The organic and the vital necessity of an hand, of a heart is abandoned in favour of its aesthetic appeal.

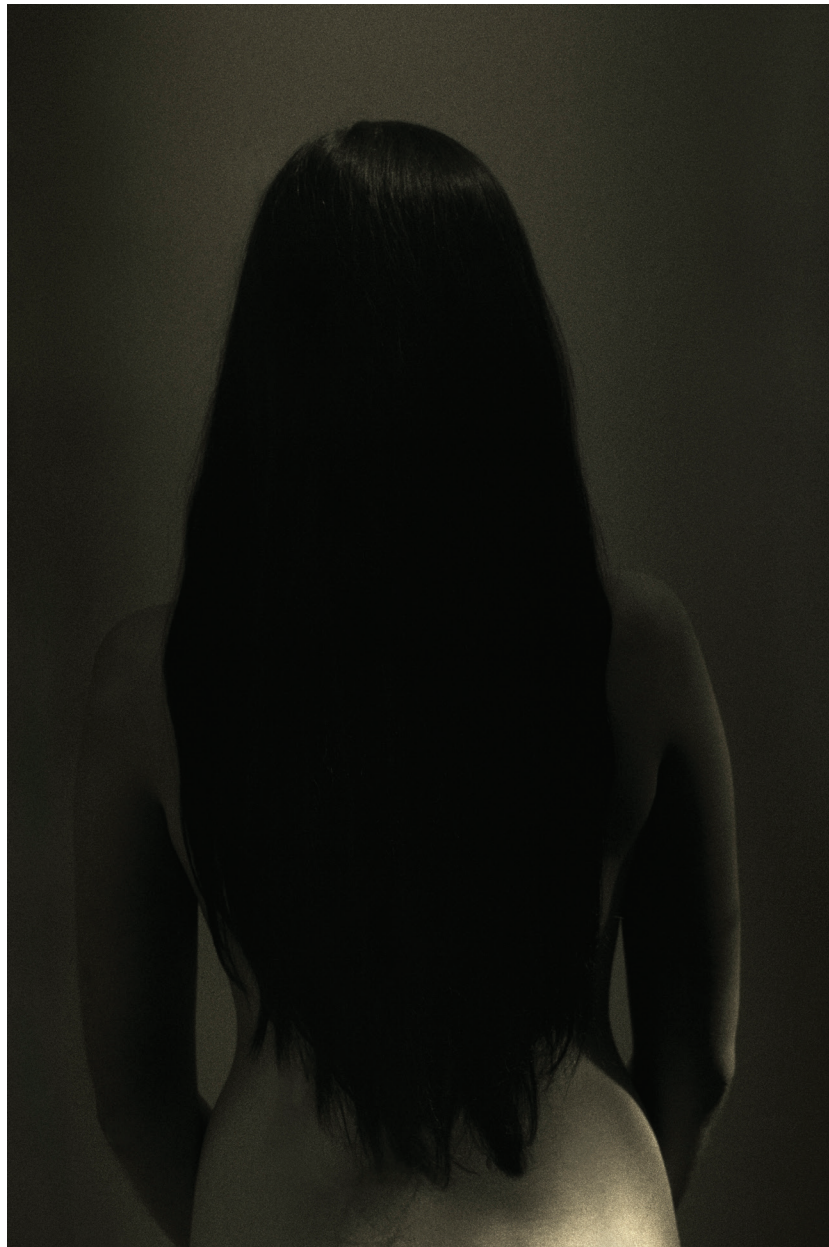
## melissa coote

One can find Gerhard Richter's influence in Melissa Coote's works, especially in her « estompage » (with sandpaper & sheep's wool). The artist enhances what seems old-fashioned and unpleasant.

The final appearance therefore obtained, the hyperrealism of her works is to be compared to photographs, which takes a great part in her work.

Besides the resemblance between her drawings and photographs, Coote succeeds in revealing the presence of light, sometimes highlighting a detail, sometimes concealing it.

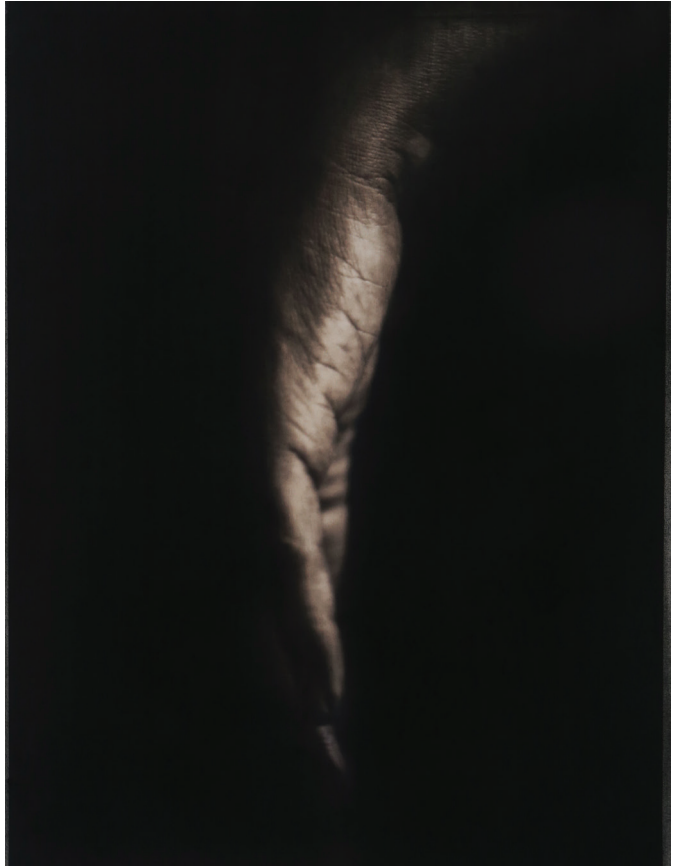
The direct reference to black and white photographs is patent.



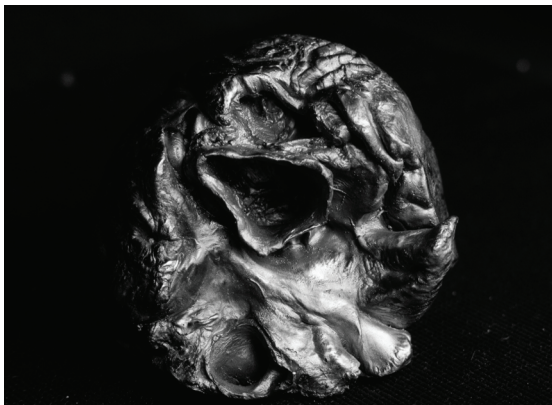
Back 2, 2017, carbon pigment, mast resin, pastel on a pigment print on canvas, 98 x 64 cm, signed

## melissa coote

Through Melissa Coote's gaze, one is able to respond to an object, an idea, an artwork using it as a bridge to go beyond commonplace. How, you may ask. Surely with the help of a different state of mind.



Hand II (gold), 2018, carbon pigment, mast resin, pastel on a pigment print on canvas, 60 x 80 cm, signed, titled and dated.



Heart I, 2014, Photo-engraving, 75,3 x 56,5 cm  
edition n° 1/5, signed, titled and numbered.



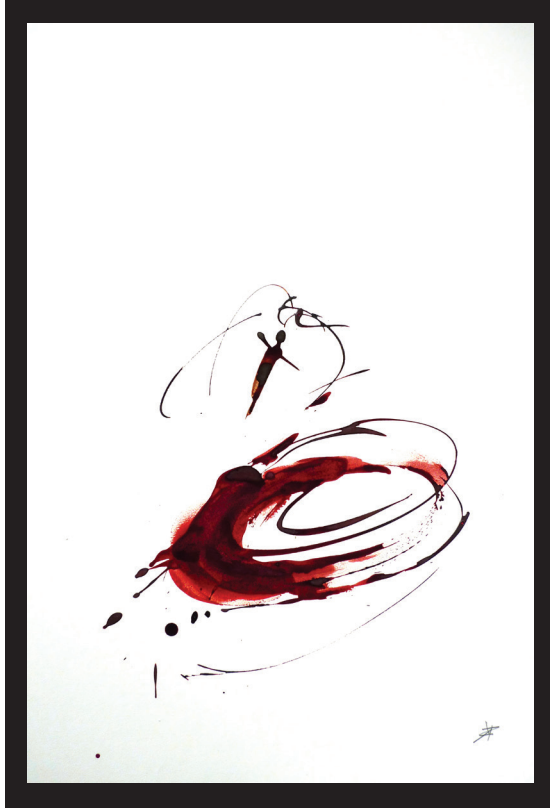
## karen farkas

After getting a degree in the Architecture School of Paris Villemin, Karen Farkas first launched into to this path. But discovering Balthus at an exhibition in Morvan in 1999 have been for her a revelation, an emancipation. Her architecture's lessons helped her find a synthesis between a structural research, a rupture in balance and letting go.

*Jeunesse de fauve*, 2018, oil on canvas, signed, 162 x 114 cm



karen farkas



Untitled, 2018, Ink on paper, signed, 65 x 50 cm

An unavoidable end establishing itself is to be found in the artist's idea of a sketch. It is a « permanent incompleteness », « the time where you should stop », as if the unconscious led the way.

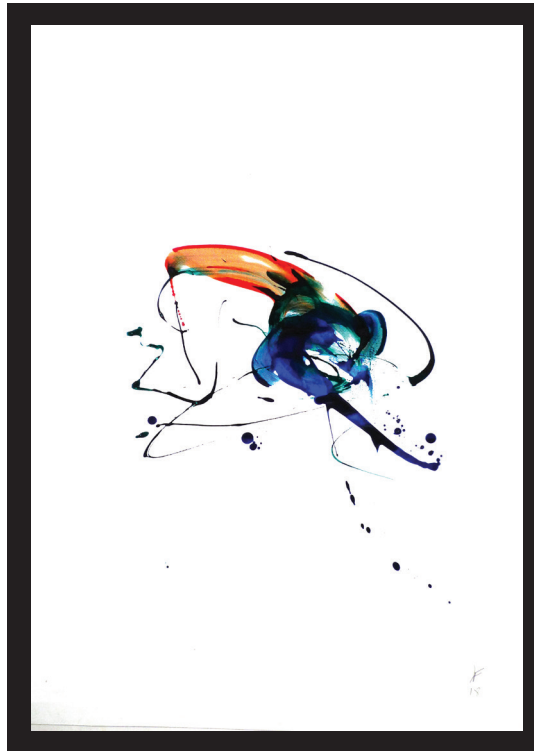
The sketch is in the artist's vision a mean to play with the border's porosity between visible and invisible.

By its essence, the sketch outlines the early shape of the future artwork, only suggesting a general idea.

Untitled, 2018, Ink on paper, signed, 65 x 50 cm



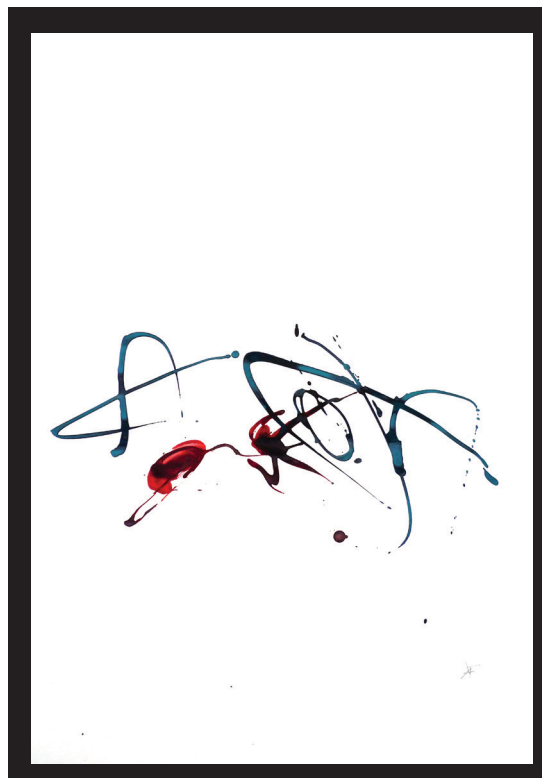
karen farkas



Untitled, 2018, Ink on paper, signed,  
65 x 50 cm

The power of chance, of these unavoidable shapes reveal themselves into Karen Farkas's work thanks to the use of runs. The unknown, unpredictable is part of the artwork. The shape or the subject thus created, rises into this balance and dizziness's paradox, resulting of runs.

The outcome of this inner experience transcribes the colours, whites (sort of breaths) and movement. Karen Farkas summarizes it as « a narrative abstraction ». Nothing is fixed, everything is in progress.



Untitled, 2018, Ink on paper, signed,  
65 x 50 cm

# baudoin lebon

## melissa coote

### solo exhibitions

- 2014
- Fox Jensen Gallery, Auckland, Australie
  - Jensen Gallery, Sydney, Australie
- 2012
- Fox Jensen Gallery, Auckland, Australie
- 2006
- Mori Gallery Eyes, Sydney, Australie
- 2005
- Under, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, Etats-Unis
- 2004
- Kryptos, Mori Gallery, Sydney, Australie
- 2002
- Faultline, Mori Gallery, Sydney, Australie
- 2001
- Hands, Mori Gallery, Sydney, Australie
- 1998
- Skulls II, Mori Gallery, Sydney, Australie
- 1997
- Breathing Bones, Ireland Model Arts Center, Sligo, Irlande
  - Breathing Bones, Ireland Limerick City Gallery, Irlande
  - Limerick City Gallery, Limerick, Irlande
- 1996
- Skulls I, Mori Gallery, Sydney, Australie
- 1995
- Têtes, Galerie Perquis, Paris, France
- 1991
- La muse d'Embeiria, Galerie Cannibal Peirce, Saint-Denis, France
- 1990
- Self Portraits, New York Studio School Gallery, New York, Etats-Unis

### group exhibitions

- 2017
- Paris Photo, avec baudoin lebon, Paris, France
  - Earl McGrath Collection, New York, Etats-Unis
  - Earl McGrath Foundation, Los Angeles, Etats-Unis
- 2016
- Fox Jensen Gallery, Auckland, Australie
  - Jensen Gallery, Sydney, Australie
  - Art For Refugees, Black Lotus Studios, Sydney, Australie
- 2014
- Fox Jensen Gallery, Sydney, Australie
- 2013
- The Truth that Lies Tell, Fox Jensen Gallery, Auckland, Australie
- 2011
- The Estrangement of Judgement, Jensen Gallery, Sydney, Australie
- 2007
- Avec Susan Norrie et Joan Grounds, baudoin lebon, Paris, France
- 2006
- Spring Show Sydney, Mori Gallery, Sydney, Australie
  - Earl McGrath Gallery, Los Angeles, Etats-Unis

- 2005
- Artists Projects, Sydney, Australie
  - Bleak Epiphanies, Sir Herman Black Gallery, Sydney, Australie
  - Fundraiser, Mori Gallery, Sydney, Australie
- 2004
- baudoin lebon, Paris, France
  - McGrath Gallery, New York Etats-Unis
- 2003
- Barking Up the Wrong Tree, Mori Gallery, Sydney, Arabesque, Mori Gallery, Sydney, Australie
- 2001
- Dublin, Irlande
  - Muses, Mori Gallery, Sydney, Australie
- 2000
- Ateliers au Féminin, Fondation Coprim, Paris, France
- 1999
- Private Showing, Dublin, Irlande
  - Exposition collective, avec Emmanuelle Renard et Gustave de Stalle, Galerie sur Cour (10ème anniversaire), Paris, France
- 1998
- EV'A 98, Limerick Exhibition of Visual Art 9, Irish Biennale, Limerick, Irlande
- 1997
- Exposition avec Vicente Imentel, Douyon Gallery, Miami, Etats-Unis
- 1996
- Salon de Montrouge, avec la Galerie Paris sur Cour, Montrouge, France
- 1995
- Contemporaines 95, Quai Branly, Paris, France
- 1994
- Découvertes et Créatures, Drouot-Montaigne, Paris, France
  - Exposition collaborative avec Marion Borgelt, Limerick City Gallery, Limerick, Irlande
- 1993
- Boyle Arts Festival, Resonance through Time and Space, Irlande
  - Contemporaines, Grand Palais, Paris, France
  - Jeune Peinture – Collection for AIDS, Grand Palais, Paris, France
- 1992
- Jeune Peinture 92, Grand Palais, Paris, France
  - Jeune Peinture 20/20, exposition itinérante, Pologne, République Tchèque, Afrique
- 1991
- Pensée de l'art, Galerie Cannibal Peirce, Saint-Denis, France
- 1990
- A Portfolio of Australian Women Artists, Macquarie Galleries, Sydney, Australie
- 1985
- Young Artists, Australien Centre of Pgotography, Sydney, Australie



## karen farkas

### solo exhibitions

- 2015
  - Paysages fugitifs, Galerie Minsky, Paris, France
- 2014
  - Le temps dissipé, LCL banque privée, Paris, France
- 2013
  - Librairie Céline Poisat, Paris, France
- 2012
  - Gérard Depardieu, en collaboration avec la Librairie Céline Poisat, Paris, France
- 2011
  - Après l'homme, Librairie Céline Poisat, Paris, France
  - L'autre état, Atelier Julien Fourrey, Paris, France
- 2008
  - Galerie Peirce, Paris, France
- 2007
  - Galerie Etienne de Causans, Paris, France
- 2006
  - Galerie Christian Siret, Paris, France
- 2005
  - Exposition privée chez Laetitia Maffei, Paris, France

### group exhibitions

- 2018
  - Art Busan, avec baudoin lebon, Busan, Corée du Sud
- 2017
  - Art Busan, avec baudoin lebon, Busan, Corée du Sud
  - KIAF, avec baudoin lebon, Séoul, Corée du Sud
- 2012
  - Librairie Céline Poisat, Paris, France
- 2010
  - Affordable Art Fair Paris, avec la Galerie Peirce, Paris, France
- 2009
  - Le Winter Show, artiste invitée, Galerie Peirce, Paris, France
  - Art London, avec la Galerie Peirce, Chelsea, Londres, Royaume-Uni
- 2008
  - Art London, avec la Galerie Peirce, Chelsea, Londres, Royaume-Uni