

WALTON FORD EXHIBITION



© Elisabeth Bernstein / Courtesy Walton Ford et Paul Kasmin Gallery

Walton Ford was born in 1960. He lives and works in New-York.

COMISSARIAT

- Chief Curator Claude d'Anthenaise,
Director of the Musée
de la Chasse et de la Nature
- Exhibition Curator
Jérôme Neutres, advisor to the
president of the Réunion
des Musées Nationaux - Grand Palais

INFORMATIONS PRATIQUES

62, rue des Archives
75003 Paris
Le musée est ouvert tous
les jours sauf le lundi et les jours
fériés, de 11h à 18h,
de 11h à 21h30 le mercredi.
Plein tarif : 8 euros
Tarif réduit : 6 euros

CONTACT

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RELATIONS AVEC LA PRESSE

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The first exhibition after the summer vacation will be devoted to an American painter, Walton Ford. It is a première in France for this artist whose animal subjects are as highly sought-after by collectors, as they are the talk of the contemporary art scene.

Combining monumental formats (some paintings are over three metres long) with the precision of a miniature painter, Walton Ford's watercolours can be likened to the finest zoological illustrations from the 19th century – the comparison with the ornithologist Jean-Jacques Audubon (1785-1821) is inevitable – but the artist mischievously robs them of any scientific intent. The paintings, based on Ford's meticulous draughtsmanship, depict a wealth of exotic fauna that comprises elephants, tigers, monkeys, rhinoceroses, lions and birds...

In addition to its reference to a scientific aesthetic, Walton Ford's wildlife looks to other visual sources for inspiration, in particular American cartoons from the 60s and 70s. The biting humour and symbolism of these pieces also indicates a certain affiliation between the artist and the Surrealists. With its meticulous realism and 'handmade' aspect, Ford's painting deliberately plays with those criteria usually attributed to kitsch objects and as such, represents an attempt to subvert contemporary art's academic codes, inherited from Marcel Duchamp and his ready-mades. And yet, through the themes it tackles, Ford's art is part of a very contemporary cultural movement that questions the limits between man and beast.

Around twenty works, including several in a very large format, will be presented at the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature. The temporary exhibition room will evoke fifteen years of artistic creation with such key works as the *Loss of the Lisbon Rhinoceros* (2.42m x 3.53m) 2008, or *A Monster from Guiny* (1.51m x 1.04m) 2007. Dotted around amongst the permanent collection, other works created especially for the exhibition will revive the famous French myth of the Beast of Gévaudan. Through its interactions with visitors, the whiff of mystery and the potential threat that the weapons on show represent, the *WALTON FORD* exhibition will transform the museum into a strange hunting ground.

The ten or so works produced especially for this exhibition represent nearly two years work for the artist, whose demanding technique is extremely time-consuming.

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PAUL KASMIN GALLERY

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