



PRESS RELEASE

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

SEPTEMBER 2022

## *Teeth! Fangs! Claws!* Carolein Smit

OCTOBER 18, 2022 – MARCH 5, 2023



*Monkey with Nuts*, enameled ceramic  
© Winnifred Limburg – ADAGP – 2022



*Owl on a Rock*, enameled ceramic  
© Winnifred Limburg – ADAGP – 2022



*White mouse*, enameled ceramic  
© Winnifred Limburg – ADAGP – 2022

### MUSEUM COMMUNICATION

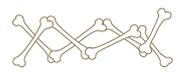
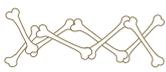
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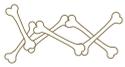
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Inspired by myths and monsters, tales and legends, artist Carolein Smit has made ceramics her main medium. Her animals and creatures made of porcelain or stoneware plunge us into a dreamlike world full of strangeness and preciousness. We can immediately feel her attraction to ancient times, from the Middle Ages to the Baroque centuries, while her taste for cabinets of curiosities or cabinets of wonders, jewels and precious materials, is unmistakable. The bestiary she displays at the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature is very rich: dogs, owls, vultures, fawns, unicorns, monkeys and mice populate the rooms alongside hybrid beings that are half-man and half-beast with the appearance of a faun, a warrior or even a shaman. Carolein Smit likes to navigate on the borders of reality, mythology and popular religious iconography, questioning all forms

of beauty. In her animal sculptures, time seems suspended. The animals are captured at a standstill as if posing for the viewer. The piercing eyes of the birds of prey are all the more impressive, the mimics of the monkeys familiar and those of the pugs, bulldogs or hunting dogs, even more endearing. However, what is most striking in this work is the extraordinary treatment of surfaces, coats, feathers and epidermis, hyper-realistic and decorative at the same time, without any contradiction. Carolein Smit's ceramics are technically stunning and are adorned with bright, brilliant colors. Each creature has a base, a terrace, ornate, decorated or natural in the vein of Bernard Palissy. Now part of a panorama of animal representation, the works of Carolein Smit are distinguished by their extreme singularity. Far from the codes of 19<sup>th</sup> century





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Pug, unnamed ceramic © Winnifred Limburg — ADAGP — 2022

sculpture exalting the strength, movement and even the fury of animals, with no relation to the stylized vision of sculptors François Pompon or Edouard-Emmanuel Sandoz, nor to Rembrandt Buggatti's zoological description, Carolein Smit's animals are more similar, despite their material and their format, to those created with fantasy by jewelers. Her marvelous animals and fantastic beings are able to compose the most unexpected stories mixing with brilliance the history of European art, the imagination of the Amerindian peoples, the fairy tales and a certain black romanticism.

The exhibition *Teeth! Fangs! Claws!* includes some fifty ceramic works and is held in the museum's temporary exhibition room but also, like a game of clues and echoes, in the rooms of the permanent exhibition. The dog collars exhibited at the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature have caught the artist's attention. Hewn with nails and spikes to protect the dogs from the bites of wild boars or wolves, these hammered metal collars have become, under his hand, sumptuous ornaments conferring on the

canines an almost princely status. Specially created for the exhibition, an imposing ceramic fresco illustrates with enchantment an ancient hunting tale on a midnight blue background, while monkeys inhabit the museum's classical rooms with fantasy...

Carolein Smit is an internationally renowned Dutch artist. She was born in Amersfoort in the Netherlands in 1960 and currently lives and works in Belgium, near Liège. Her works are present in numerous public collections in Switzerland, Germany, Turkey and China. She has participated in numerous exhibitions in museums and art centers: at the Bonnefantenmuseum in Maastricht, at the Boijmans van Beuningen in Rotterdam, at the Maison Rouge in Paris, at the Musée d'Art moderne de la ville de Paris. She was the subject of a retrospective exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Drents Museum in the Netherlands in 2018.

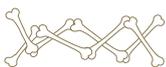
*Teeth! Fangs! Claws!* produced by the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature is her first solo exhibition in France.

Full price: 12€  
Reduced rate: 10€

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 11 A.M. to 6 P.M.  
Nocturnes on Wednesdays until 9:30 P.M.  
Closed on Mondays and holidays

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