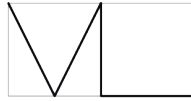


Irina Rasquinet





G A L E R I E
V I R G I N I E
L O U V E T

You embark upon a journey when you enter the world of Irina Rasquinet. Irina is a multifaceted artist who explores all the materials that she lays her hands upon to create rich and prolific realms. She is a painter and sculptor working with fabric, mesh and wood. She invents sculptured objects that draw from childhood and surrealism. Irina is one of those artists who cannot be confined to one genre. That is her strength. It is striking to see how her creations call for a broad range of media from beads to crystals and toys, etc. Sticking, overlaying, clumping together, decorating with ribbons, assembling, entangling and pinning materials that a priori are not related, she breaks down boundaries and glides from one practice to another at the whim of what she wishes to express.

Irina Rasquinet knows all too well what uprooting is, she comes from Chechnya and fled the war when she was studying fine arts. She knows what it's like to arrive in another country knowing nothing about it. She knows what it is to save her skin. Incidentally she creates skins. She sews clothes, enjoying the French expressions that she gradually encounters along the way. She explores, delves into the French language and her creations enable her to emphasise what touches her, makes her laugh or moves her in our language. Upon arrival she made herself a dress coat with chicken bones around the idea of saving her skin, of having skin on her bones, on her back...This dress, if she still had it, was one of her first works. Bones were at the heart of it, followed by the framework, our skeleton, underpinning the start of the work: beginnings.

Irina Rasquinet presents us with her *Prémices* (Beginnings) for her first exhibition at Galerie Virginie Louvet. When she arrived in 1999, she got caught up in the storm of December, damage from which can still be seen today in certain regions. She picked up hundreds of branches that she kept. She captures their beauty and lightness by adding crystals that delineate the curved branches, and emphasise their characteristics. Her branches or rather sculptural paintings take centre stage on the gallery walls, painted in warm colours reflecting the walls of the artist's own studio. Her creations also evoke chandeliers, a nod to the world of Cocteau. Irina Rasquinet is good at what she does and anything she gets her hands upon rises from the ashes revitalising items such as dead branches, a tin can, a disjointed robot, a damaged spoon and an empty snail shell, poetic objects as such. In the centre there is a comical papier-mâché chandelier from which roses, tins, tops and lighters spout on which plants and crystals are budding. This cascade of paper evokes destitution and poverty, questioning our ability to deal with reality. It also conveys decline. Its ramifications echo our urban life that is all too often devoid of meaning. Recuperating, transforming and diverting waste as well as everyday objects to pave the way to the imagination, recycling in its purest form. The window installation has been produced using seeds, some of which are set with crystals. To join them together Irina Rasquinet has woven, like a spider's web, braided cotton threads in which she embeds the hands of dolls. The artist also presents us with two sets of chimeras embroidered with pearls. The tail of one of these imagined animals is none other than a video output jack. Unexpected, imagined scenarios challenge us to reflect and often laugh about this confused reality in which we live.

Ingrid Pux, *Les Prémices*, 2019



Irina Rasquinet
Sugar daddy, 1999-2019
Tree branch, various objects and Swarovski crystal
180 x 87 x 70 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Sugar daddy, 1999-2019 (detail)
Tree branch, various objects and Swarovski crystal
180 x 87 x 70 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Sugar daddy, 1999-2019 (detail)
Tree branch, various objects and Swarovski crystal
180 x 87 x 70 cm



Irina Rasquinet
La croisière aux émeraudes, 1999-2019
Tree branch and Swarovski crystal
122 x 53 x 10 cm



Irina Rasquinet
La croisière aux émeraudes, 1999-2019 (detail)
Tree branch and Swarovski crystal
122 x 53 x 10 cm



Irina Rasquinet
La rosée de la nuit, 1999-2019
Tree branches and Swarovski crystal
82 x 43 x 35 cm

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Irina Rasquinet
La rosée de la nuit, 1999-2019 (detail)
Tree branches and Swarovski crystal
82 x 43 x 35 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Lignes du destin, 1999-2019
Tree branch and Swarovski crystal
76 x 67 x 37 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Lignes du destin, 1999-2019 (detail)
Tree branch and Swarovski crystal
76 x 67 x 37 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Ramification des chances, 1999-2019
Tree branch and Swarovski crystal
76 x 28 x 13 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Ramification des chances, 1999-2019 (detail)
Tree branch and Swarovski crystal
76 x 28 x 13 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Refuge poétique, 1999-2019
Tree branch and Swarovski crystal
60 x 20 x 15 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Refuge poétique, 1999-2019 (detail)
Tree branch and Swarovski crystal
60 x 20 x 15 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Regain amoureux, 2019 (detail)
Papier mache, Swarovski crystal and various objects
320 x 210 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Regain amoureux, 2019 (detail)
Papier mache, Swarovski crystal and various objects
320 x 210 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Terre fertile, 2019
Mahogany seeds, wool and Swarovski crystal
210 x 140 x 20 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Terre fertile, 2019 (detail)
Mahogany seeds, wool and Swarovski crystal
210 x 140 x 20 cm



Irina Rasquinet
Mère veilleuse, 2016
Fiberglass and epoxy
Various dimensions
Dragonfly Collection – Domaine des Etangs



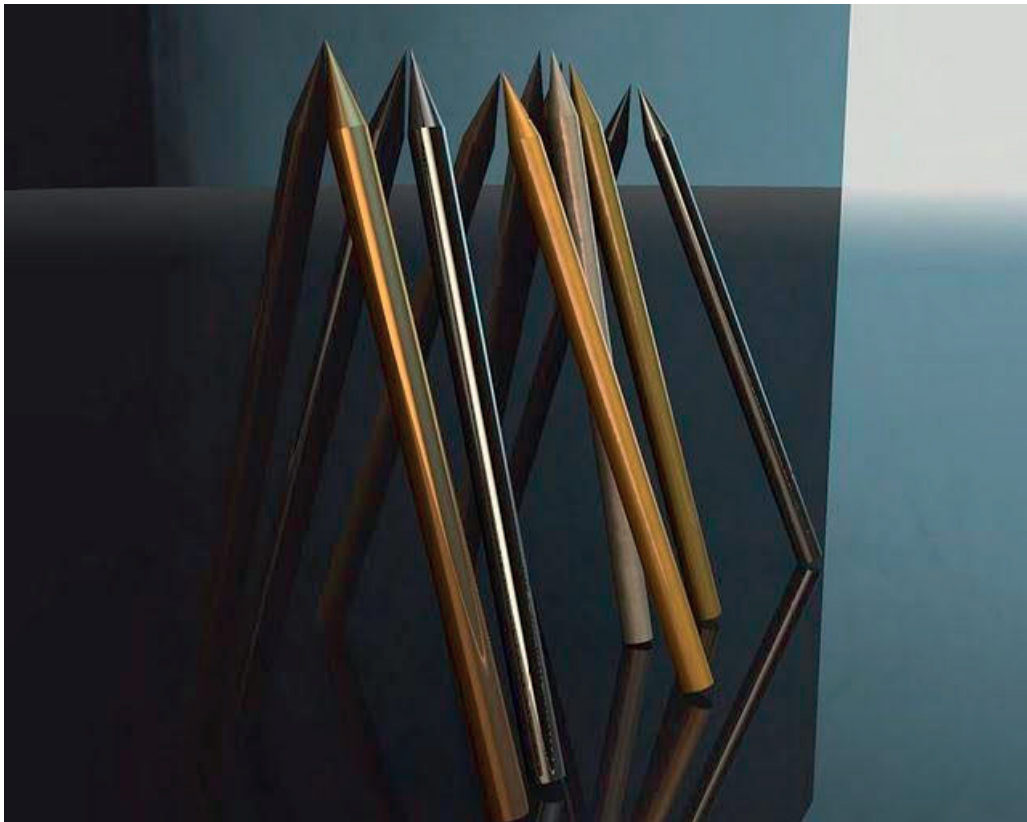
Irina Rasquinet
Mère veilleuse, 2016
Fiberglass and epoxy
Various dimensions
Dragonfly Collection – Domaine des Etangs



Irina Rasquinet
Flèche ethernELLE, 2018
Bronze and gold galvanization
175 x 15 cm
Dragonfly Collection - Domaine des Etangs



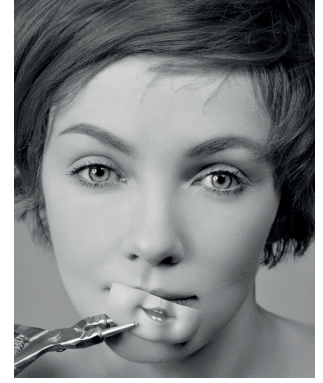
Irina Rasquinet
Ne pas manquer d'air, 2019
Fiberglass and Swarovski crystal
42 x 7 x 14 cm
Private collection



Irina Rasquet
Mines d'or, 2015
Fiberglass and epoxy
300 x 230 x 12 cm

IRINA RASQUINET

Born in 1974 in Kizliar, Russia.
Lives and works in Paris, France.



SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Prémices*, curated by Ingrid Pux, Galerie Virginie Louvet, Paris, France
- 2016 *Or du champs*, Galerie Joyce, Paris, France
Mère veilleuse, installation at the Domaine des Étangs, Garance Primat's collection, Massignac, France
- 2014 *En garde*, Galerie Pixi, Marie-Victoire Poliakoff, Paris, France
- 2011 *Sans Filet*, Exposition WWF, curated by Lauranne Germond, Zürich, Switzerland
- 2009 *Langue de bois*, Galerie AAA, Paris, France
If you have anything mean to say, sit close to me (installation), Arte Party, Paris
- 2006 *Diamond Market (Performance)*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2005 *Nogoodxmas (Installation)*, Galerie Nogoodwindow, Paris, France

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Une galerie, un regard Part III*, Galerie Pixi, Marie-Victoire Poliakoff, Paris, France
- 2013 *Chose de flot et de mer*, Galerie Pixi, Marie-Victoire Poliakoff, Paris, France
- 2010 Double exhibition : Joyce Galerie Paris & Joyce Galerie Hong-Kong
- 2009 *Art & céramique*, (avec Erró et Miss Tic), Paris, France
Ar(t)bres, La Nature malmenée, Château de la Bourdaisière's park, Tours, France
Robots, Galerie 13, Paris, France
- 2008 *This is me et Black block*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
Off-Sight, Galerie Deborah Zafman, Paris, France
Terre à Terre (Down to Earth), curated by Hervé Mikaeloff, Royal Monceau, Paris, France
- 2007 *First Choice*, Galerie Bailly, Paris, France

AWARDS

- 2009 Ar(t)bres Award for *La Nature malmenée*, Château de la Bourdaisière, Tours, France

COLLECTIONS

- 2016 Dragonfly Collection – Domaine des Etangs, Massignac, France
- 2011 David Holder Private Collection
- 2008 Charles Firmenich Collection

EDUCATION

Graduated from Zaïzeva, Moscow, Russia
Graduated from the École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD), Paris, France