

PSY CHO TRO PES

01.06.23

15.07.23

RITUAL AND ARTISTIC
INTERFERENCES

EXHIBITION CURATORS
MAEL REVAILLOT



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GALERIE MEYER
OCEANIC & ARCTIC ART
17 RUE DES BEAUX-ARTS, 75006 PARIS

PSYCHOTROPES
Ritual and artistic interference
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Exhibition curator: Mael Revailot
Galerie Meyer Oceanic & Arctic Art, 17 Rue des Beaux-Arts, Paris

In a constant quest to distort the state of its own consciousness, the human species has, since the first songs, used certain psychoactive products. The correspondence between real vision, tactile experience and sensory interpretation becomes blurred, giving way to an immersive episode in which the image becomes elusive and unique.

Considering the limits of a graphic description of their experiences under the influence, the artists, in order to give a sense of this other perception of the world, resort to devices that do not rely solely on vision but mobilize other synesthetic senses.

In shamanist societies (also known as «primitive»), hallucinogenic psychotropics are considered chemical vehicles enabling access to the «world of spirits or ancestors»; their ingestion requires a codified preparation coupled with an initiatory intention.

Behind these «shamanistic psychotropics» lies a whole mythological, ritual, and social dimension. These substances have a specific place in these cultures, whereas in our consumer societies, they do not refer to any practice with a meaning shared by the whole community.

On the other hand, today, they can be evoked in artistic creation. In the exhibition space, some twenty works of early Pacific art, particularly from Melanesia, are on display. Lime spatulas, kava bowls and cups and an ancestor effigy provide ethnological inspiration for a largely botanical exhibition (Betel, Kava, DMT, Salvia Divinorum). Resonating with this, 3 emerging artists, Anaïs Penot, Antonin Renard and Kelit Raynaud evoke this interference in new commissioned works, using different mediums.

The exhibition PSYCHOTROPES, on view in June 2023 at Galerie Meyer Oceanic & Arctic Art, Paris 6e, establishes links between the consumption of psychoactive products, including hallucinogenic ones, by ancestral populations of Melanesia, particularly New Guinea, and the evocation of these effects.

This exhibition is not an invitation to consume psychotropic substances, but rather an exploration of their effects and their role in the creation of certain Pacific cultures and the contemporary art scene.



RENARD Antonin
Botanical drawing, ink on paper, unpublished work,
2023.

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©Antonin Renard



A lime spatula in the shape of a false «clapper» with
a male representation. A perforated crest extends
between the eyes and mouth. The lateral
protrusions show a pattern similar to that of the face
carved on the head of most «clappers». Massim
region, Southeast Papua New Guinea, Melanesia.
Ebony wood with lime highlights. 24.1 cm.
19th century.

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