

EDOUARD BARIBEAUD**MYTHOLOGY MEETS RENAISSANCE MEETS MODERNISM**

The German-French artist Edouard Baribeaud creates mysterious interiors and cryptic portraits deeply rooted in the history of European art and culture. His works not only unite diverse styles, they allow the everyday to become mythical. In the process Baribeaud proves himself a skilled and brilliant storyteller who leads us into imaginary scenes somewhere in between West and East.

Berlin, August 7, 2018 – The art of Edouard Baribeaud (*1984) is characterized by his two cultural identities and profound wanderlust. The son of a French father and a German mother grew up in France and studied in Paris at the École Nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs. Since 2010 he has lived in Berlin and traveled the entire world. His travel bug continues to affect his drawings, which recall classic miniature paintings. His view of the foreign has altered his view of the familiar:

“I try to incorporate the motifs, stories, and myths I gather on my travels into my works, combining them with scenes and objects from everyday life.”

The young artist has playfully mastered all of the classic techniques (ink, watercolors, gouache) and he succeeds in creating effective stages. His themes include interpersonal relationships, individuals and their place in society, isolation, life, and death. Even though his heroic stories appear to date from antiquity, the drama in them could not be any more contemporary, allowing the viewer a great deal of room for interpretation.

“Actually, I wanted to illustrate children’s books. Even as a child, I loved books. My biggest role models were Michael Ende and Tomi Ungerer. While studying illustration and print graphics, I was able to intensify this passion. After graduating, I wanted to work more freely in the fine arts and create stories without having to tell them all the way to the end.”

Thus, for instance, his portrait *Medusa* shows a self-confident young woman wearing a knot of colorfully patterned snakes on her head; however, the animals cannot be seen in her mirror image. According to Greek myth, the sight of Medusa’s face was supposed to turn the viewer to stone, but it was safe to look at her image in a mirror. Baribeaud considers his *Medusa* an illustration of the multifaceted character, and presents her image as representative of the modern woman.

Baribeaud features several groups of works: *The Hour of the Gods* (2014-2015), *The Nocturnal Vault* (2015-2017), and *An Old Story for Our Modern Times* (2018), amid essays by Imran Ali Khan, Pay Matthis Karstens, and Sabine Thümmel. It also presents the silk cloth designed by the artist for Hermès’ current fall collection. It is based on his watercolor *Acte III, Scene I, La Clairiere*, inspired by Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. With this, Baribeaud follows in the steps of renowned artists such as Hiroshi Sugimoto, Kermit Oliver, and Alice Shirley.



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