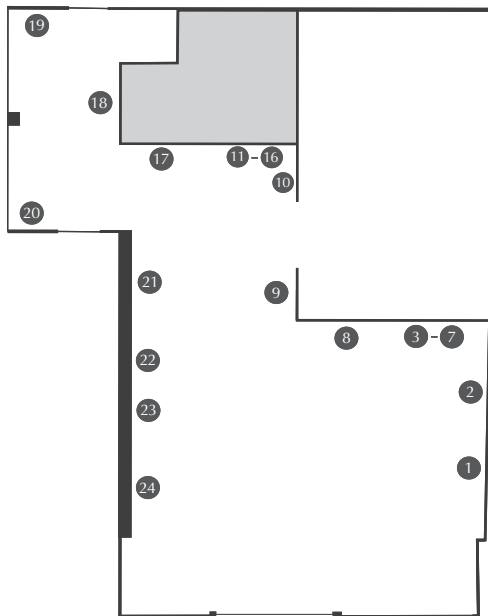


1. **Crabs**
Oil on canvas
2021, 180 x 170 cm
2. **Nautilus**
Oil on canvas
2021, 193 x 130 cm
3. **Starfish**
Oil on canvas
2021, D: 30 cm
4. **Spider Crab**
Oil on canvas
2020, D: 60 cm
5. **Orange Octopus**
Oil on canvas
2021, D: 50 cm
6. **Round Octopus**
Oil on canvas
2021, D: 50 cm
7. **Green Octopus**
Oil on canvas
2021, D: 60 cm
8. **Shell**
Oil on canvas
2021, 180 x 170 cm
9. **Scuba Diver**
Oil on canvas
2021, 193 x 130 cm
10. **Spider Crab**
Oil on canvas
2020, D: 60 cm
11. **Spider Crab**
Oil on canvas
2021, D: 70 cm
12. **Round Octopus**
Oil on canvas
2021, D: 50 cm
13. **Green Octopus**
Oil on canvas
2021, D: 60 cm



14. **Starfish**
Oil on canvas
2021, D: 30 cm
15. **Starfish**
Oil on canvas
2021, D: 25 cm
16. **Starfish**
Oil on canvas
2021, D: 25 cm
17. **Scuba Diver**
Oil on canvas
2021, 193 x 130 cm
18. **Raft**
Oil on canvas
2020, 114 x 146 cm
19. **Purple Octopus on Pink**
Oil on canvas
2021, D: 70 cm
20. **Hands with leaves**
Oil on canvas
2021, 146 x 114 cm
21. **Onsen**
Oil on canvas
2020, 160 x 130 cm
22. **Grand Blue Octopus**
Oil on canvas
2021, 130 x 160 cm
23. **Grand Green Octopus**
Oil on canvas
2021, 130 x 160 cm
24. **Scuba Diver**
Oil on canvas
2021, 193 x 130 cm

THE DEEP

Charles Hascoët

2021.09.17 – 2021.11.17

Building 105, 199 Hengshan Road, Shanghai

Opening Hours: Tue - Sun, 11:00 - 19:00

Galerie Dumonteil Shanghai is pleased to present “The Deep”, the solo exhibition of Charles Hascoët, marking this emerging French artist's debut in China. Featuring his most recent works, the exhibition pieces together the artist's journey of self-healing in the face of the sudden and the unexpected. In “The Deep”, a personal and universal setting, the artist seeks a sense of rootedness in the flow while sharing his most intimate stories through these highly intuitive and metaphorical paintings.

The Deep, a Poetic Dwelling

The sea is everything. It covers seven-tenths of the terrestrial globe. It is an immense desert, where man is never lonely, for he feels life stirring on all sides. The sea is only the embodiment of a supernatural and wonderful existence.¹

Oceans and seas have always played a significant role in arts and literature. Some seek its excitement and mystery, whereas Hascoët looks for a reclusive haven where there is only silence and peace — “While there is a storm at the surface, turmoil and trouble, there is always quietness deep below.” Coping with the loss of his father due to cancer and the separation with his wife because of the pandemic, the artist has faced more overwhelming and difficult situations than he ever wanted. This series of paintings compile a vast self-portrait that reveals who he is and what troubles him during those months.

Just like Freud believed that studying dreams provided the easiest road to understanding the unconscious activities of the mind, Hascoët has initiated a search quest on canvas with puzzles that uncover more secrets about him than even he can access.

1. Verne, Jules, 20,000 Leagues Under the Seas, Translated by F. P. Walter, 2010, originally published in 1870

In the works featuring a diver who always took off his helmet, it seems that he wasn't really concerned with the importance of breathing underwater, and that he felt at home at the bottom of the ocean. Also curiously, the diver has chosen octopus and decapods, some less-attractive, if not repulsive sea animals as his companies, along with some mundane objects — lighting candles, tennis balls, etc. One can only conjecture how these images indicate the artist's struggle with his responsibilities and the passing of time. Still, there's also detectable brightness, mobility and warmth carried by these bewildering combinations.

This underwater voyage carrying a sense of loss somehow coincides with Heidegger's notion of "dwelling" — homelessness is the sole summons that calls mortals into their dwelling, to bring dwelling to the fullness of its essence.²" It raises these profound philosophical questions about the notion of belonging and how we relate to it.

The Deep, a Feast of Color and Form

In "The Deep", the subject also provides a premise that justifies the artist's search on colors and form, particularly the morphology of sea animals and plants.

Consistent with the artist's preference for bright and fluorescent colors, the intensive use of purple and pink has been ongoing for some time in the studio. Fascinated by these almost unnatural and yet pleasing colors, especially purple — the last color in the spectrum visible to the human eye, Hascoët has extensively explored the variations of its textures and tones in this series of works. Notably, this violet — a color both numb and warm — also corresponds to the artist's complex emotional experience during the gloomy days.

In the paintings portraying the octopuses, the mimicry and camouflage ability of this magical creature is matched by the rhythmic colors of the picture, while the eye-catching tennis balls complete a playful "duet". Famous for their rounded bodies, bulging eyes, and eight long arms, octopuses are often considered "monsters of the deep". In Hascoët's works, however, their eyes are full of stories and filled with a sense of caring and benevolence, and even a hint of warmth through their supposedly cold blue veins.

Besides a touch of optimism in the darkness, some of the works also carry a sense of melancholic humor through the juxtaposition of seemingly unrelated and yet morphologically similar animals and objects — a spider crab crawling on spider webs, an octopus carrying a human skull, plants growing from human hands, etc. Again, these intriguing analogies leave as much room for viewer's interpretations as they do for artistic creations.

2. Heidegger Martin, Building Dwelling Thinking, 1993a, p. 363

"The Deep" is a diary in which the artist recollects what has been given to him and what he has lost. Holding the octopus in hand and knowing that it might escape at any moment, the diver has attempted to keep something that he cannot truly hold onto, but like the tennis ball that is bound to float up to the surface, eventually our diver shall set off on a new journey that bears the memory of this one.

About the Artist

Charles Hascoët (b.1985) is an artist who lives and works between New York City and Paris. He studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Paris and graduated in 2014. During his student years, and along with his teachers (J.Rielly or J.Michel Alberola among them), he had the occasion to continue and deepen his favourite medium, painting.

Since then, his pictorial creations have been exhibited in many countries. Navigating between institutional and alternative venues, he participated in several group shows in Brussels (BE), Miami (US), and France countryside. He recently had his last solo show in Paris, under 'Super Zoom Art' curation, 'Je longe mon souffle', where he exhibited a series of characters and objects, as described where he "draws the portrait of a melancholic and sleepy humanity". Always with a certain sarcasm and benevolence, his paintings found various ways of showing and sharing with us Hascoët's vision from our contemporary world. Besides this solo at Dumonteil Shanghai, he will soon be exhibiting his paintings at the New Galerie in Paris and at Jose Bienvenue gallery in NYC.

He is at the same time known for years for his DJ practice, playing his massive and eclectic Vinyl collection in clubs, bars, concert halls, in Europe and worldwide, as numerous radio broadcasts.

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