

# INDEPENDENT BRUSSELS

**CHARLES AVERY** NOV 8-11, 2018  
BOOTH 4.8

VANDERBORGH T BUILDING

Schildknaapstraat 50 (rue de l'Ecuyer), Brussels (BE)

GRIMM is pleased to announce its first participation in Independent Brussels with a solo presentation of new work by Scottish artist Charles Avery (1973, Oban, UK). This presentation amounts to a snapshot of the inhabitants, culture and aesthetic of Onomatopoeia -the capital city of Charles Avery's fictional Island state- the creation of which the artist has solely dedicated his practice to for the last thirteen years.

Since 2005 the artist has amassed a wide cast of protagonists, architecture, objects, emblems and signs, which he combines to evoke a place that is both familiar and uncanny: a culture that is based on rationalism and pure mathematics, yet which tolerates the whimsical and the absurd.

In Avery's new work presented at Independent Art Fair, the gamut of Onomatopoeian society is visualised. From the itinerant would-be workers who wait outside the Labour exchange in the hope of a mere days subsistence, to the rambling Shaman gesticulating skyward. From the solitary bikini-clad flip-flopping bather and the eel seller in the market, to the curious weary tourists.

Whereas his drawings are reportage of a realm where a camera cannot go, Avery's sculptures bring the fiction off the wall and into the room where they are silent: a stool to sit on, a cup to drink from and a table to put it down on, a lamp to give light.

"The more I have striven to event this fictional state, the more cause I had to scrutinise the actual world, and in doing so, I have become fascinated by the observation of people and the simple function of things, in the everyday, which seem to me like magic when viewed objectively. In the early days of the project I was obsessed by establishing the rules of the Island, the axioms that underpinned their philosophies etcetera. In these new works, I am all about the detail - from trying to describe the fleshy thigh inside a pair of jeans, the way a gold chain falls across a shoulder blade, the swish of a beasts tail, to worrying whether a jug pours well."

- Charles Avery



Charles Avery | *Untitled (Shaman Outside Noumenology, Onomatopoeia, with Tourists Onlooking)* | 2018 | detail of work in progress

## About the artist

Charles Avery (1973, Oban, UK) lives and works in London and Mull (UK). Selected solo exhibitions include: *These Waters*, GRIMM, New York (US); *Study #15: Charles Avery, David Roberts Art Foundation, London* (UK), 2017; *What's the matter with Idealism?*, Gemeentemuseum, The Hague (NL), 2015; *fig-2 2/50 Charles Avery*, ICA Studio, London (UK), 2015; *Vitrines: Charles Avery, L'Antenne, Le Plateau*, FRAC Ile de France, Paris (FR), 2013; *Onomatopoeia, Part 1*, EX3 Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea, Florence (IT); travelling to Kunstverein, Hanover (DE) and FRAC Ile-de-France, Paris (FR), 2010; *The Islanders: An Introduction*, Parasol Unit, London (UK), travelling to Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam (NL) and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (UK), 2008.

Avery has forthcoming exhibitions scheduled at the Wilhelm Hack Museum in Ludwigshafen (DE), the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (UK) and the Istanbul Biennale (TR), curated by Nicholas Bourriaud.

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For more information, interview and royalty free image requests, please contact the gallery manager Jorien de Vries: [press@grimmgallery.com](mailto:press@grimmgallery.com) +31 (0)20 6752465

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Charles Avery | *Untitled (itinerants waiting for Labour Exchange to open)* | 2017 | Pencil, acrylic, indian ink, collage on paper | 86.5 x 140 cm | 34 1/8 x 55 1/8 in

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