



Over The Influence
ZEVS
Temporary Sanctuary
8 February - 24 March 2024



Jet Painting, Hivo-Oo Oil Spill, 2023, Mixed Media on Canvas, 195x114x11cm

Over the Influence is proud to present ZEVS's Temporary Sanctuary exhibition. A leading figure in French street art during the 1990s, ZEVS has always tackled the most pressing issues of his time, treating them artistically in his own distinctive and recognizable style (clean graffiti, liquidated logos, visual attacks, etc.).

Today, as we may be witnessing the alarming twilight of the Anthropocene era, ZEVS's attention is more than ever drawn to confronting his vision and artistic practice with it. He fully occupies all the spaces of the OTI Bangkok gallery to offer a journey that immerses us in inquiries related to the sea and the earth, and the persistence of elements. Water, air, fire, and earth are in turn summoned to create works in which the notion of stratification and long-term temporality is crucial. In doing so, the artist critically addresses the role of petrochemical industries, what they produce from fossils, and how this massive and invasive extraction to produce more energy impacts ecosystems through its toxicity—greenhouse gases, entanglement—leading to climate disruption and the undeniable destruction of nature.

The exhibition opens with Oilspill Islands, a series of paintings and studies depicting islands surrounded by water, as seen from above. The exhibition then leads to a new series of Liquidated Logos, five paintings evoking idyllic views, colorful skies between sunset and sunrise. The Shell paintings form a series of both pictorial and three-dimensional works, complemented by videos. The exhibition concludes on the top floor, opening onto a panorama of the city and the temple facing the gallery, in a sleek and minimalist atmosphere. Here, two works are installed that join the artist's concerns with Asian spirituality. The sculpture High Combustion Ceramic depicts the Earth, within which a flame burns, carving it as if the North Pole had melted. Finally, on the surface of the sculpture, one can distinguish, reminiscent of the exhibition's initial works, a land relief, a lithosphere, but also the trace of the artist's hands that have dug, a symbolic materialization of human presence and activity, a kind of Anthropocene geography.



ZEVS

Born in 1977

Lives and works between Paris and Berlin

ZEVS, who began as a graffiti artist in Paris in the 1990s, has adopted various personas such as The Shadow Flasher and The Serial Ad Killer. His most recent and well-known impersonation is that of Aguirre Schwarz, the man behind the leopard skin tights. According to the story, he owes his last name to the Spanish conquistador played by Klaus Kinski in Aguirre, the Wrath of God, who ventures into the Amazon in search of El Dorado. The dark forces of his name animate him.

It was during a trial in Hong Kong in 2009 that Aguirre Schwarz, caught in the flashes of local paparazzi, made his first public appearance.

ZEVS got his name from a train that nearly ran him over as he was tagging in a subway tunnel. From 1998, he abandoned traditional graffiti in favor of painting the shadows of urban furniture in Paris. A few years later, he began visually hijacking advertising posters by painting the faces of models in red. In Berlin, in 2002, he took the Lavazza coffee brand's icon hostage and kidnapped the 10-meter-high poster. After the hostage was released in 2005, ZEVS started to distort the logos of major brands by making them drip (liquefying them). ZEVS is also known for his "proper graffiti" works created on the dirty walls of the city. He uses a pressure washer to paint invisible messages that can only be revealed by ultraviolet light.

Over The Influence

OTI was founded in Hong Kong in 2015 and expanded to Los Angeles in 2018, followed by Bangkok in 2022. The gallery has established itself in Europe with its first space in the 8th arrondissement of Paris, inaugurated in July 2022. Over The Influence is dedicated to championing artists who challenge traditional approaches to studio practice, presenting a dynamic program that explores the intersection of contemporary art, architecture, design, music, fashion, and other forms of visual expression. The gallery represents an international roster of emerging and established artists working in various mediums and disciplines.

Opening reception

8 February 2024 5PM - 7PM

Exhibition Dates

8 February - 24 March October 2023

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