



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Aliona Ortega, Director
Tel: (305) 576-5335
info@waltmanortega.com
www.waltmanortega.com

Jérôme Lagarrigue Arcane Chamber

October 10 – November 10, 2015



"Red Haze #3", 2015
oil on canvas, 60 x 38 in.

Miami, FL, Sept. 17, 2015 — Waltman Ortega Fine Art presents *Arcane Chamber*, a solo exhibition of paintings by Jérôme Lagarrigue. The critically acclaimed French-American artist will be exhibiting his recent oil paintings in Wynwood this October. Lagarrigue's gestural style fuses the flaws of new photographic technologies and the moody glow of pictorial light. Known for his distinct style that combines the figurative and the abstract, the artist creates paintings that pull the viewer into their contemplative atmosphere.

Painting exercises are integral to Lagarrigue. Sitting by sitting his paintings still record steps that get repeated in his dance to capture mood: moving paint, altering composition, distorting body part or facial feature, shifting light source for dramatic effect.

Recast after a year, past exercises have given way to a less confining lens in his recent paintings. To know a Lagarrigue painting, was to know the artist's sprite-like vision as if projected through a Kubrick lens where the viewer watches a story through the eye of the film director. Lagarrigue says his recent paintings represent an attempt to "strip myself from photographic reference". It all began by finding a round mirror on the street and turned into "mark-making by developing a freer language". These paintings embrace introspection, weird thoughts, decisions that had to be made along the painter's path—self-portraiture minus lens.



Instead of multiple sittings over time by neighbors and friends, for these bridge (or transitional) paintings Lagarrigue has turned to all-in-one sittings to depict a person's mystery as if perceived by the viewer. He calls it the arcane chamber, a room behind the room, where to enter you need an "invitation to emotion". But the artist, raised in Paris and based in New York, is the kind of breed who must reconfigure ways of putting paint together without contrivance or concept or brand. This is the newfound direction, detectible in the muted color palette in the portrait "Amadou".

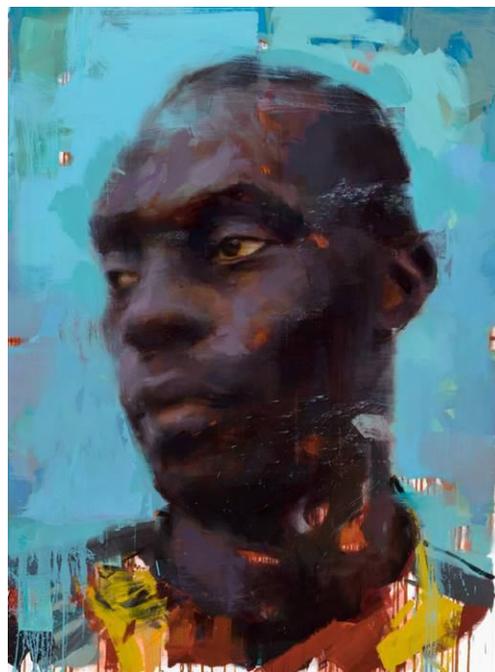
Looking back from this bridge, demarcating a body of work and critical respect over the last fifteen years, the sense of animation which often arose out of collision—be it boxing, sumo wrestling, or riot—has careened in this show from blur into a blue-hued mid-canvas horizon that now suspends the subject mid-mind between artist and viewer. A new nature emerges from an arcane chamber.

This past year has been a very busy one for Lagarrigue, who did several important collaborations: "Visible Man", a body of work comprised of portraits of friend and model Shaun Ross; "Optical Identities", a solo exhibition that inaugurated opening of shoe couturier Christian Louboutin's Miami boutique; and "Manifest Justice" a socio-politically charged exhibition curated by Yosi Sargent (National Endowment for the Arts). This fall, one of Lagarrigue's works titled "Genesis" was presented at the National Portrait Gallery for the prestigious BP Portrait Award.

Finally, "Arcane Chamber" at Waltman Ortega Fine Art. Consider this your invitation to the artist's secret room. The exhibition opens on Oct. 10 with a vernissage from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. The gallery will be open for extended hours (until 7:00 p.m.) on Thursday, Oct. 8, for a Collector Preview. The show remains on view through Nov. 10, 2015.



"Clem Fixing her Hair", 2014
oil on canvas | 60 x 40 in.



"Amadou III", 2014
oil on canvas | 79 x 59 in.

###