

CLAUDE JAMMET

Conference



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30 May – 28 June 2025

ER | 10 YEARS



CONFERENCE

For her third solo exhibition with Everard Read London, Claude Jammet focuses her attention on a collection of extraordinary birds, exquisitely rendered in oil paint on paper, mounted on canvas.

The inspiration for this new body of work came, in part, from Jammet's reading of *The Conference of the Birds* (Mantiq al-Tayr), a 12th-century Sufi allegorical poem. The birds in the poem are on a quest to find their ideal leader and the poem is concerned with the soul's journey toward divine truth and union with God.

Each bird represents a human fault or weakness that must be overcome on the spiritual journey. One outcome of the journey is the birds' eventual realisation that they themselves are 'the Simorgh' – the divine being they seek.

Jammet's conference of birds includes birds of prey as well as small, vulnerable birds who themselves are prey. Her works are a response to the bewildering turmoil across the globe and our search for teachers and answers.

Jammet's exhibition is also a poignant and unsettling meditation on humanity's sustained impact on the winged creatures with whom we share the Earth.

Jammet recalls the words of the social

philosopher, Roman Krznaric, who argues that good ancestors actively work to leave a positive legacy by considering needs and rights of future generations. For the artist, this means bearing witness to our times, just as the Paleolithic paintings of Lascaux and La Grotte Chauvet continue to speak to us from hundreds of centuries ago.

Since Jammet was born, many bird and animal species have vanished, and some are on the verge of disappearing. Her exhibition, in part, seeks to record the departure of countless fragile armadas from our skies, of those we mistakenly consider secondary actors. She wonders whether the species we presumptuously consider to be the principal actor is soon to follow – or whether another outcome is still possible.

Over a career spanning five decades, Jammet's subject matter has encompassed portraiture, still lifes, and the quotidian. Giving her attention to animals, people and objects, it seems, is a way of carrying with her beloved people, places and things, recording traces of her roots and offering a meditation on the fleeting and transient nature of all things. For Jammet, painting is a requirement; the chosen means by which to communicate her experience of the world.



In the poem, the group of birds are looking for their ideal leader. I thought it was quite apt with all the elections that have been going on worldwide, with all of us trying to work out what's going to be the best bet for us ourselves ... The Gathering makes reference to political gatherings and rallies.

– Claude Jammet



The Gathering

oil on paper on canvas

95 x 70 cm



My work is also an attempt to apologise to posterity. We are now fully entered into the Anthropocene Era, the disappearance of the animals I am painting is sadly imminent, if not already a fact.

– Claude Jammet



Life II

oil on paper on canvas

30 x 30 cm

The kākāpō, meaning 'night parrot' in Maori, is a large green parrot with a distinctive owl-like face and a waddling gait. They cannot fly, but they climb well. They are endemic to New Zealand and critically endangered.



Fallout

oil on paper on canvas

70 x 70 cm

The largest painting is of a harpy eagle, a beautiful bird, and its title is Il Commendatore, which is from Mozart's Don Giovanni Opera. And the commendatore is actually the father figure. He represents Saturn. He is the castigator. He is the person who drives us.

– Claude Jammet



Il Commendatore
oil on paper on canvas
140 x 100 cm



Being up to four feet tall and with a wingspan of up to 10.5 feet, Andean Condors are considered the largest raptor in the world.



The Other Candidate
oil on paper on canvas
38 x 48 cm



The Marabou Stork is native to sub-Saharan Africa, where it can be found in a variety of habitats, both wet and arid. It often resides near human habitation, particularly around landfill sites.



Natron

oil on paper on canvas

50 x 85 cm





Chaperon
oil on paper on canvas
65 x 80 cm





Pysanky II (Red Virburnum)

oil on paper on canvas

22 x 22 cm



In the poem, the birds refer to 'The Simorgh' as their ideal leader. In our mythology, owls are often associated with wisdom, knowledge and prophecy.

– Claude Jammet



The Simorgh
oil on paper on canvas
100 x 90 cm





Mascot

oil on paper on canvas

25 x 20 cm



C. Jammet '25

Years ago whilst visiting the S  nanque Abbey in the South of France, I read the Medieval Bestiary. I began to see that most of our prejudices about certain beasts are still based on superstitions and not on scientific fact, and at that time, I started to redress some of those myths through fable.

   Claude Jammet



Flattery

oil on paper on canvas

140.5 x 80 cm



My lifelong production has revolved around mankind in his context of nature, but there is an urgency now to leave humanity out of the picture as the source of the decline of the natural world, and to give precedence to the species that are being wiped out daily.

– Claude Jammet



Life

oil on paper on canvas

30 x 30 cm





CLAUDE JAMMET

b. 1953, Zimbabwe

Born in Zimbabwe of French parents, Claude Jammet grew up in Kenya, India and Japan in addition to long sojourns in France, before settling in South Africa where she began her career as a professional painter. Over the past 20 years Jammet has lived and worked in Liguria, Italy.

As an artist, Jammet is completely self-taught. Over a career spanning five decades Jammet has held some 25 solo exhibitions as well as group shows across South Africa, Europe and Japan. Her work is held in numerous private and corporate collections across the world.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2023** *Exit*, d'Haudrecy Art Gallery, Knokke, Belgium
- 2022** *Weather Vane*, Everard Read London, UK
- 2021** *SUMMER*, group exhibition, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2020** *Against Interpretation*, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2019** *Southern Aspect*, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2018** *Claude Jammet: Bestiary / Anthropocene*, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2014** *Claude Jammet: CULTUS*, CIRCA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011** *Beyond the Garden*, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, South Africa
- 2010** *Oltre il Giardino*, Galleria Cristina Busi, Chiavari, Italy
Fair Spezia Art Fair, Galleria Cristina Busi, La Spezia, Italy
- 2009** *Hortus Conclusus*, Galleria Davico, Turin, Italy
- 2008** *Rosso*, Galleria Cristina Busi, Chiavari, Italy
- 2006** *Fair Lineart*, d'Haudrecy Art Gallery, Ghent, Belgium
Quotidiana, Galleria Cristina Busi, Genova, Italy
Quotidiana, d'Haudrecy Art Gallery, Knokke Zoute, Belgium
Baths, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Fair Arte Genova, Galleria Cristina Busi, Genova, Italy
- 2005** *Fair Arte Genova*, Galleria Cristina Busi, Genova, Italy
Il Basilisco/Busi, Genova, Italy
An Invitation to Dinner, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, South Africa
- 2004** *Fair Lineart*, d'Haudrecy Art Gallery, Ghent, Belgium
- 2 person with Aron Demetz*, d'Haudrecy Art Gallery, Knokke Zoute, Belgium
Galleria Cristina Busi, Chiavari, Italy
- 2003** *Fair Lineart*, d'Haudrecy Art Gallery, Ghent, Belgium
Children, d'Haudrecy Art Gallery, Knokke-Zoute, Belgium
Old Mutual for NSPCC, K.F.A. with Simon Mee Gallery, London, UK
Mostra n° 200, Galleria Busi, Chiavari, Italy
- 2002** *Proposte*, Galleria Forni, Bologna, Italy
Proposte, Galleria Busi, Sestri Levante, Italy
Natura morta, Galleria Busi, Sestri Levante, Italy
Natura morta, Galleria Busi, Chiavari, Italy
- 2001** *Figurazione*, Galleria Forni, Milano, Italy
Fair Art marché France Japon, Osaka, Japan
Proposte, Galleria Forni, Bologna, Italy
Innocents II, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, South Africa
- 2000** *Spartito*, Galleria Busi, Chiavari, Italy
Innocents, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, South Africa
- 1999** *Eden*, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, South Africa
Still Life, Nederberg Arts Festival, Knysna, South Africa
- 1998** *A Sense of Place*, Old Gaol Gallery, Knysna, South Africa
Opening Exhibition, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, South Africa
Garob, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, South Africa
Aardklop National Fine Arts Festival, Potchefstroom, South Africa
- 1997** *Group with G. Jones & D. Poynton*, Old Gaol Gallery, Knysna South Africa

This Species is Amusing Itself to Death, Knysna Nature Conservation
Christmas Exhibition, Old Gaol
 Gallery, Knysna, South Africa
Knysna Artists, BCI Fine Art,
 Johannesburg, South Africa
Association of Arts, Pretoria, South
 Africa

- 1996** *Crucible*, Old Gaol Gallery, Knysna,
 South Africa
- 1995** *Salimbaques*, Knysna, South Africa
- 1993** *Design for living fair*, Lookout Gallery,
 Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1992** *Design for living fair*, Lookout Gallery,
 Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1991** *Design for living fair*, Lookout Gallery,
 Johannesburg, South Africa
 Chelsea Gallery, Cape Town, South
 Africa
- 1990** *Survival*, The Directors' Collection,
 Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1989** *'In Company of Wolves'*, The Lookout
 Gallery, Plettenberg Bay, South Africa
- 1988** *The Rembrandt Van Rijn Arts Festival*,
 Cape Town, South Africa
- 1987** *The Standard Bank National Arts
 Festival*, Grahamstown, South Africa
Annual Wildlife Exhibition, The
 Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg
- 1986** *Plettenberg Bay Arts Association*,
 Plettenberg Bay, South Africa
The Actors, The Crake Gallery,
 Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1985** *Annual Wildlife*, The Everard Read
 Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1984** *Rooi Dak*, The Lookout Gallery,
 Plettenberg Bay, South Africa
2 Person with A. Lefebvre – Comores,
 The Tait Gallery, Knysna, South Africa
- 1983** The Bitou Gallery, Knysna, South
 Africa
*2 Person with A. Lefebvre – Knysna
 Story*, The Tait Gallery, Knysna, South
 Africa
- 1982** Carlton Hotel Gallery, Johannesburg,
 South Africa

1980 The Crake Gallery, Johannesburg,
 South Africa

1975 Madden International Galleries,
 Johannesburg, South Africa

1974 Madden International Galleries,
 Johannesburg, South Africa

COLLECTIONS

The Sasol Collection, South Africa
 The Sanlam Bank Collection, South Africa
 Minorco Luxembourg, Lichtenstein
 IBM, South Africa
 Sun International, South Africa
 Kirstenbosch, South Africa
 Commerzbank, Germany
 The Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South
 Africa
 Watersedge Trust, South Africa
 A.D.M, Germany
 First National Bank, South Africa

THEATRE & FILM

(produced and directed by Claude Jammet)

1995 *Rite of Passage* (film)

1990 *Mockingbird*

1989 *Sacrifice*

1987 *Carmen*

1986 *Caliban*

BOOKS

1998 *A Dictionary of South African Artists*,
 published by The Everard Read Gallery

1994 *Wie Noah Gerettet Wurde* – with
 German children's author, Willi
 Fahrman

1990 *'Survival'*, The Directors' Collection,
 Volume II

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Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 10 am – 6 pm
Friday 10 am – 5 pm | Saturdays 12 pm – 4 pm

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

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