D e l p h i n e A T T I T U D E

DELPHINE BOËL

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Through this body of work I am sharing with the viewer my way of dealing with life's challenges. I have learned that my attitude is the only thing I can truly control.

To present this idea I decided to reveal artworks that I have kept hidden and thought I would never exhibit. They were created between 2013 and 2019, which were very important and challenging years in my life. The works consist of intimate, diary-like texts and poetry illustrated in a painterly or abstract way. They capture my innermost thoughts about the world around me.

Hung among these diary-like artworks are more recent paintings conveying uplifting themes that serve as positive stepping stones over the troubled waters of the past. By placing these artworks in an alternating pattern I am encouraging the viewer to see the importance of keeping a positive attitude during difficult times. Through these paintings I show the utility of "brainwashing" oneself with positive messages to reach a better tomorrow.

I have also created an installation called *Delphine Oracle*. It features a hologram showing my virtual floating head talking to the viewer in order to brainwash them by repeating the positive words "hope ... love ... be strong ... never give up", like a meditation. This is intended to counterbalance the endless negative brainwashing we are subjected to through the tabloid press and social media.

On the walls around the talking sculpture are medieval-looking torches that radiate light through iron tabs engraved with the positive message "love" in my handwriting. Through this installation I am expressing that you can blend the old and the new ... as long as love and positivity make up the centre.

Delphine

As Delphine Boël's art demonstrates: *sunlight is the best disinfectant*. By pushing her feelings past her anxieties and the reservations of others onto paper, canvas and fabric, Delphine creates electrifying art celebrating radical honesty and the power of rejecting internalized stigma. Her tenacity, intensity and fortitude, expressed in her **Attitude** exhibition, demonstrate how Delphine successfully wrangled self-actualization from a situation designed to negate and deny her identity, history and voice.

Delphine's artworks are specific yet universal, mythic but personal. Her text-based autobiographical work references the intricacies of her personal story, which most of her viewers already know, while speaking to ubiquitous vulnerabilities, struggles and potential.

Delphine's imagery is raw and honest, needing no translation or context beyond pure emotional resonance. Her existential quest became public property in 1999, when the Belgian press traced rumours that she was the illegitimate daughter of Baroness Sybille de Selys Longchamps and King Albert II. In response, the King of the Belgians denied Delphine's identity and his eighteen-year relationship with her mother. In January 2020, a DNA test confirmed King Albert II of Belgium's paternity. Through her decades-long fight to validate her identity, Delphine also forged a unique identity as an artist.

Initially, the European press commandeered her story to criticize the monarchy, but Delphine regained her subjectivity by making art. As she exclaims in a 2015 brightly coloured drawing, *I do not deserve this FAME of SHAME*.

> Social scientists speculate that celebrities, from Hollywood royalty to monarchy, serve the significant societal function of being embodied morality tales for the general public. Their struggles, graces and actions illuminate common themes within our shared experiences.

As an unwilling celebrity, Delphine might have shied away from this platform. Instead, by creating open and self-aware art about her subjective journey, she gives intimate insights for her viewers to apply in their own familial struggles while reaching across a media barrier to offer symbiotic healing. As Delphine's 2020 Indian ink on Japanese paper declaims, *Never Give Up: When the Future Looks FUCKED/Never Give Up: Don't Self-Destruct/Never Give Up: Try to Reconstruct.*

Rather than allowing the media to objectify her, Delphine created her compelling and enticing artworks. By rejecting shame and others' use of her story, she embraces full openness, transparency and confrontation. Her expression inspires empathy and awareness for individuals thrust into situations far beyond their control. As she describes, her art is "very, very, big – shouting" even when the scale is small because she insists that her voice remains present.

Delphine, unlike most people, could not take her history or legacy for granted since it has been so critically questioned and assessed. In this caustic situation imposed on her, she has ascerted her place in the world through her art. In the process, she created an oeuvre representing the quest for existential grounding by people who, as she describes, experienced rejection or lies, are odd, or know what it means to be different. Across her oeuvre, Delphine harnesses this parental rejection and external misappropriation of her private struggle for identity through her artistic expression.

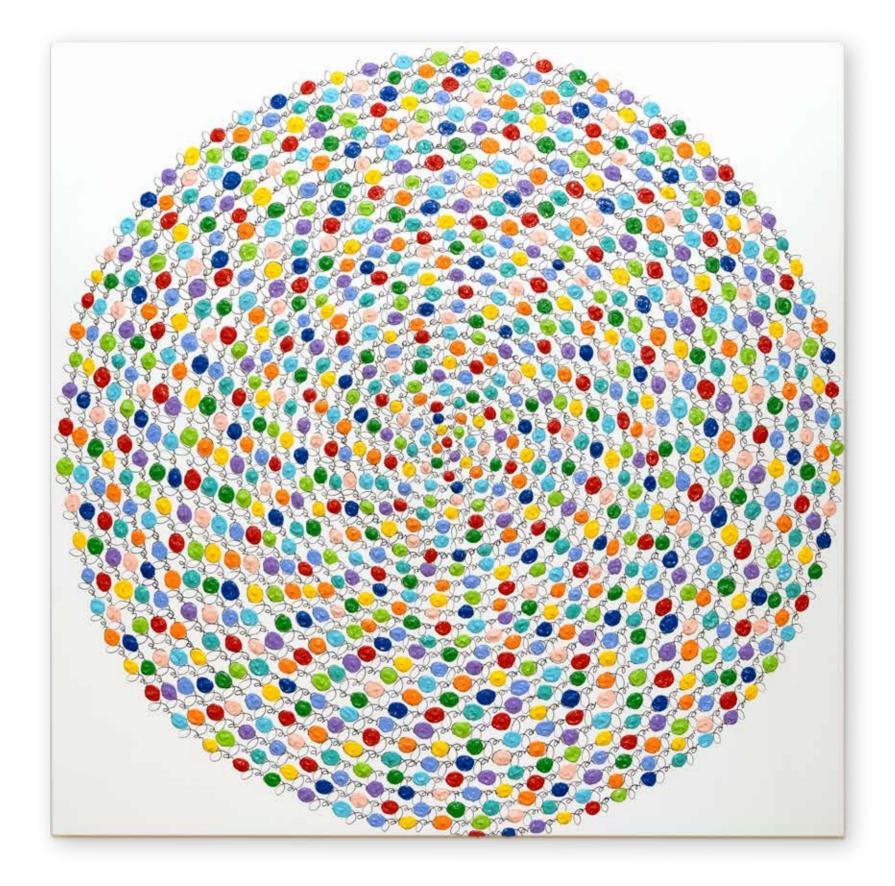
Through her emotionally generous drawings, paintings and collages, Delphine creates testaments to her unique resilience and insight while providing solace and inspiration for others. She employs bold, unmitigated colours and concise wording for maximum impact. As she writes in gold and silver leaf on dark paper for *Fright Fright Fright (2017), my environment is rotten/ I will make sure never to be forgotten.*

Ana Finel Honigman, PhD Oxford University, History of Art





WHEN I WAS A CHILD I DID NOT LIVE IN THE WILD MY MOTHER TOOK CARE BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE IN THE AIR I WAS MADE TO FEEL DIFFERENT THE GOSSIP WAS PERSISTENT I DID NOT KNOW THE REASON HAD THERE BEEN A TREASON? I GREW UP WITH A SECRET NAG AND NOW I HAVE A TAG PEOPLE JUDGE ME AND IT MAKES ME SAD ONE SHOULD NOT, IT IS BAD I HATE RACISM/SNOBBISM IT IS A MASKED PESSIMISM WE ARE ALL THE SAME THERE SHOULD BE NO SHAME



——14



THE IMAGE OF LOVE - 2020 - HEIGHT 90 CM, WIDTH 180 CM, DEPTH 8 CM - ACRYLIC PAINT, GESSO, GLITTER AND MIRRORS ON CANVAS



IT IS SO STRANGE HOW I DERANGE WHEN I WAS BORN MY PARENTS WERE TORN DID THEY WANT ME? Am I NOT TO BE? BUT THE PROBLEM WAS I CAME OUT AND IT MOVED EVERYTHING ABOUT SO NOW I EXIST THAT NASTY FEELING PERSISTS SHOULD I GO AWAY? OR SHOULD I STAY? NO FUN THAT CONFUSED FEELING TO ALWAYS WANT TO BE FLEEING

——18

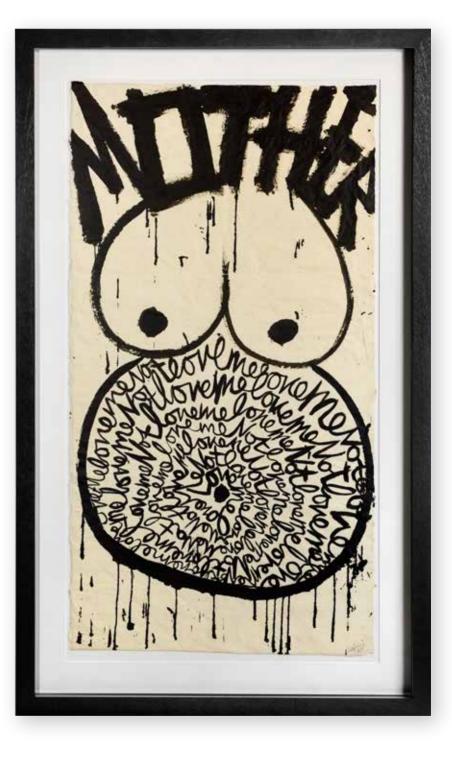


GUILTY GUILTY GUILTY WHY SHOULD I BE BURDENED WITH THIS PENALTY? THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS ALL OVER THE PLACE WHY SHOULD PEOPLE PICK ON MY FACE? I AM INNOCENT WAS THIS AN ACCIDENT? SADLY IT IS A LACK OF RESPONSIBILITY THIS IS A BAD REALITY IT IS EVIL AND HEARTLESS ALL THIS LEAVES ME BREATHLESS

GUILTY GUILTY GUILTY - 2015 - HEIGHT 68 CM, WIDTH 96 CM - ACRYLIC AND CHINESE INK ON CHINESE PAPER







YOU ARE THE BEGINNING THAT SETS MY HEART SPINNING YOUR WORDS ARE APPEALING BUT YOUR ACTIONS CAN BE DISTURBING YOU CAN BE SO THOUGHTFUL BUT YOU CAN BE SO AWFUL YOU HAVE SUCH INFLUENCE BUT AT TIMES YOU LACK PRUDENCE WHILE THE TRUTH CAN BE HARD YOU ARE ALWAYS IN MY HEART





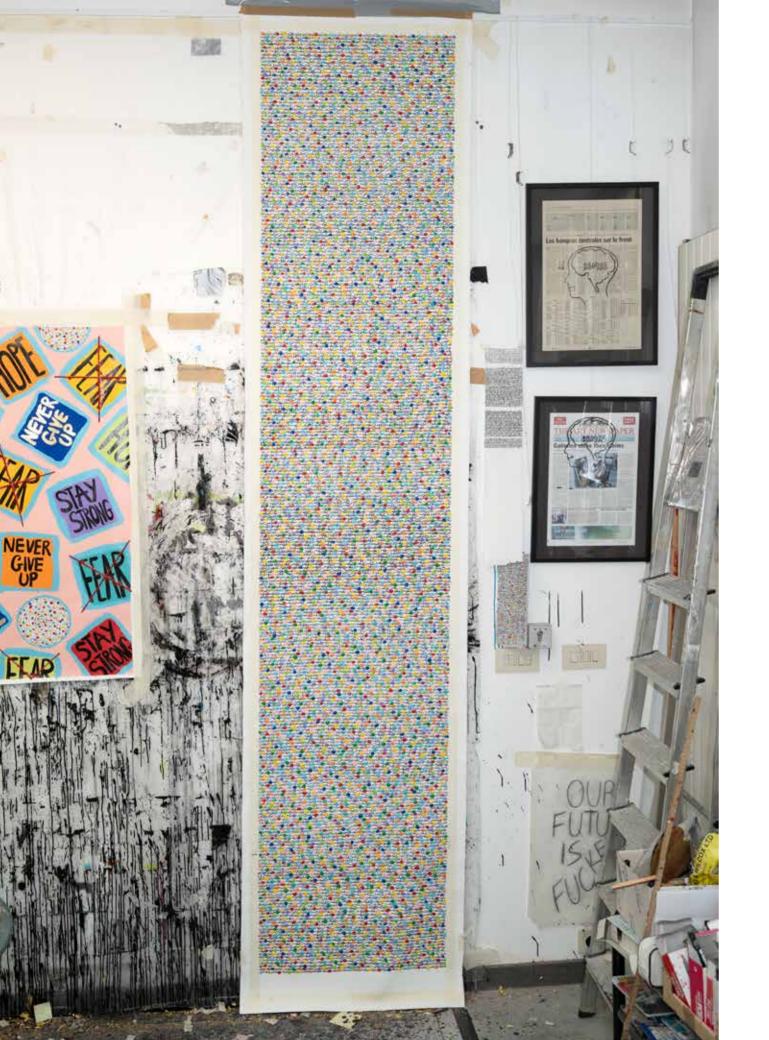
I FEEL I AM SUCH A PAIN AM I IN THE WAY? I FEEL LIKE RUNNING AWAY ESPECIALLY FROM THIS PLACE They think how dare I show my face What have I done to trigger this? Without all this would my life be bliss? I will not accept their judgments and nasty comments Nor be pushed down and surrounded by frowns or fake smiles that I can see from miles I am in such pain I do not deserve this fame of shame



WHEN I WAS A CHILD I DID NOT LIVE IN THE WILD **MY MOTHER TOOK CARE** BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE IN THE AIR I WAS MADE TO FEEL DIFFERENT THE GOSSIP WAS PERSISTENT I DID NOT KNOW THE REASON HAD THERE BEEN A TREASON? I GREW UP WITH A SECRET NAG AND NOW I HAVE A TAG PEOPLE JUDGE ME AND IT MAKES ME SAD ONE SHOULD NOT, IT IS BAD I HATE RACISM/SNOBBISM IT IS A MASKED PESSIMISM WE ARE ALL THE SAME THERE SHOULD BE NO SHAME



REALITY IS SCARY WHEN YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN FAIRIES I WANT TO SEE MAGIC BUT I'M ALWAYS IN A PANIC TORMENT I RESENT MAKE IT STOP BLAME, BLAME, BLAME SHAME, SHAME, SHAME ALWAYS THE SAME NO MORE GUILT HOW CAN I BUILD? FAMILY TIES STOP ME TO FLY **NO MORE SHAME** IT IS TOO MUCH PAIN MAKE IT STOP **OTHERWISE I WILL DROP** IF THIS PERSISTS I SHALL NO MORE EXIST



THE PATH TO LOVE - 2020 - HEIGHT 274 CM, WIDTH 43 CM, DEPTH 8 CM - ACRYLIC PAINT AND GESSO ON CANVAS



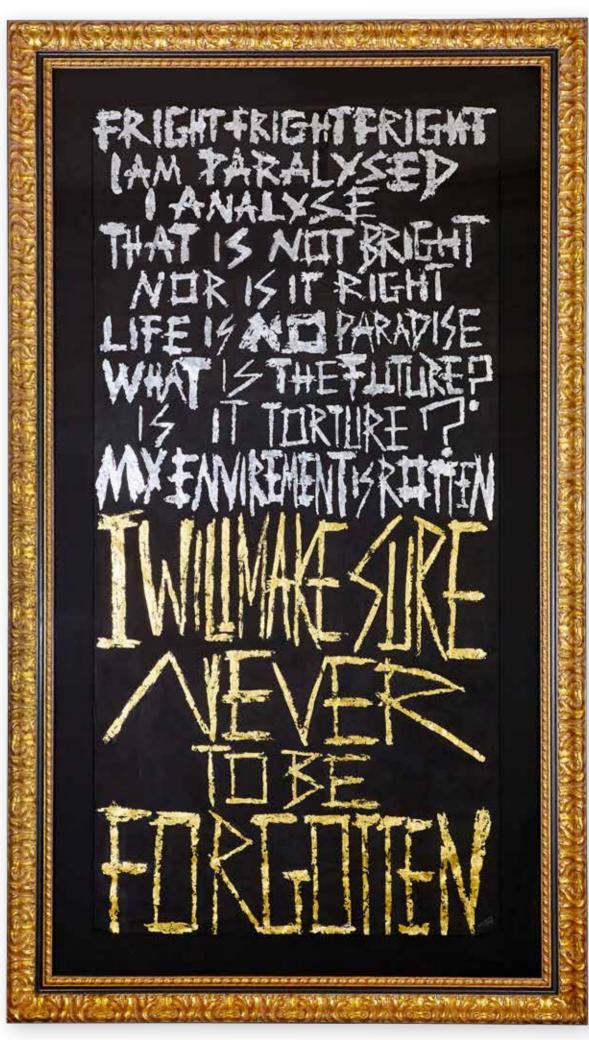






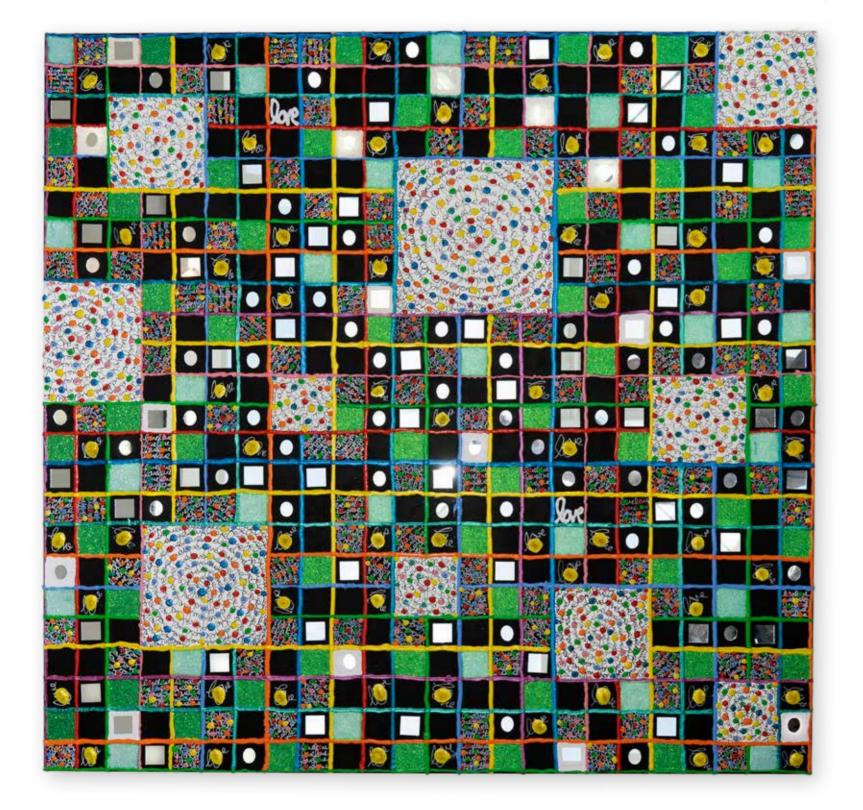
THE SHORTCUT TO LOVE – 2020 – HEIGHT 111 CM, WIDTH 38 CM, DEPTH 5 CM – ACRYLIC PAINT AND GESSO ON CANVAS

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FRIGHT FRIGHT FRIGHT I AM PARALYSED I ANALYSE THAT IS NOT BRIGHT NOR IS IT RIGHT LIFE IS NO PARADISE WHAT IS THE FUTURE? IS IT TORTURE? MY ENVIRONMENT IS ROTTEN I WILL MAKE SURE NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

——42



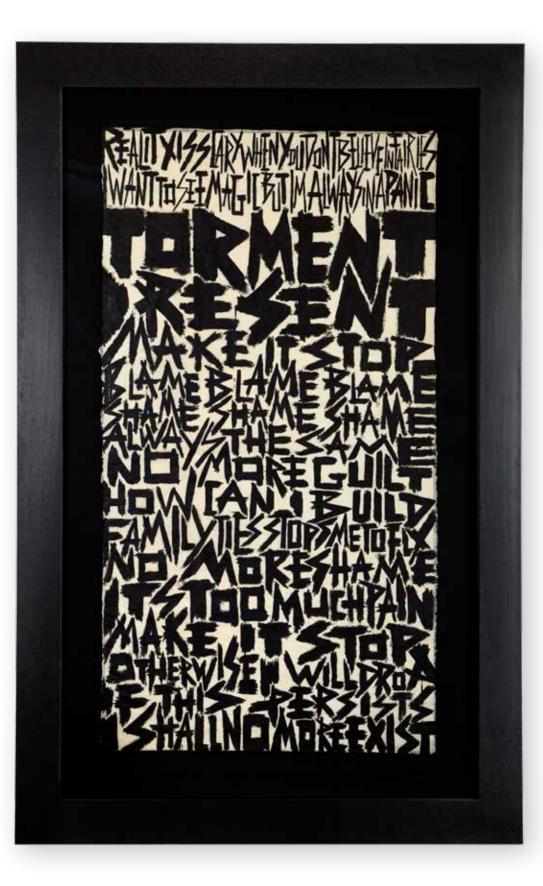
SHIMMERING LOVE MACHINE - 2019 - HEIGHT 120 CM, WIDTH 120 CM, DEPTH 8 CM - ACRYLIC PAINT, GESSO, GLITTER AND MIRROR ON CANVAS



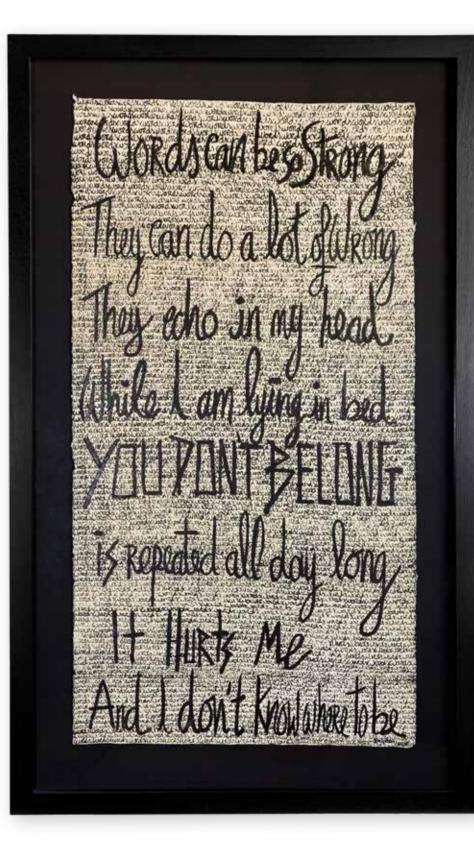
—46



IT IS SO STRANGE HOW I DERANGE WHEN I WAS BORN MY PARENTS WERE TORN DID THEY WANT ME? Am I NOT TO BE? BUT THE PROBLEM WAS I CAME OUT AND IT MOVED EVERYTHING ABOUT SO NOW I EXIST THAT NASTY FEELING PERSISTS SHOULD I GO AWAY? OR SHOULD I STAY? NO FUN THAT CONFUSED FEELING TO ALWAYS WANT TO BE FLEEING



REALITY IS SCARY WHEN YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN FAIRIES I WANT TO SEE MAGIC BUT I'M ALWAYS IN A PANIC TORMENT I RESENT MAKE IT STOP BLAME, BLAME, BLAME SHAME, SHAME, SHAME **ALWAYS THE SAME** NO MORE GUILT HOW CAN I BUILD? FAMILY TIES STOP ME TO FLY NO MORE SHAME IT IS TOO MUCH PAIN MAKE IT STOP **OTHERWISE I WILL DROP** IF THIS PERSISTS I SHALL NO MORE EXIST



WORDS CAN BE SO STRONG They can do a lot of wrong They echo in my head While I am lying in bed You don't belong Is repeated all day long It hurts me And I don't know where to be



PUSHED TO MY LAST RESORT I TOOK MY FATHER TO COURT IT WAS ALL OVER THE NEWS THE FAMILY WAS NOT AMUSED SOME PEOPLE WERE HORRIBLE IT WAS TERRIBLE I KEPT LEVEL HEADED IN THE OLD DAYS I WOULD BE BEHEADED THE JUDGES LISTENED WITH DEAF EARS **KNOWING THE OUTCOME WAS CLEAR POWER TOOK OVER** THE WHOLE CHARADE WAS A COVER LADY JUSTICE IS NOT BLIND SHE HAS LEFT ME IN A BIND BLACKLISTED, OUTCAST MY FUTURE WILL NOT BE MY PAST JUSTICE IS A NONSENSE WORD THAT DOES NOT EXIST IN THIS WORLD

-----54



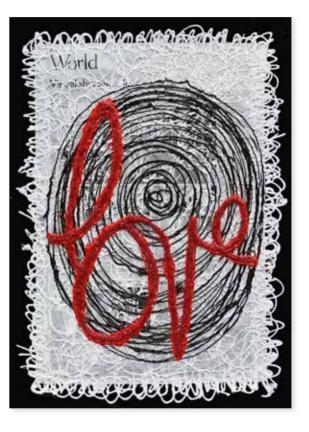
WORDS CAN BE SO STRONG They can do a lot of wrong They echo in my head While I am lying in bed You don't belong Is repeated all day long It hurts me And I don't know where to be

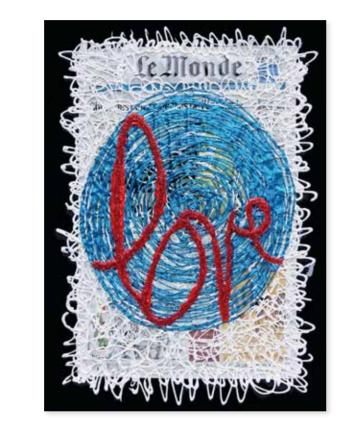


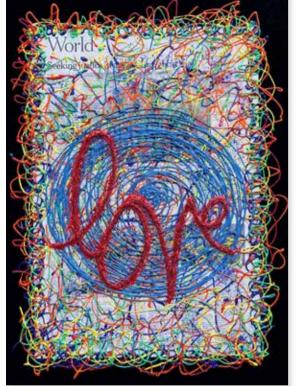
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HOPE - 2019 - HEIGHT 28 CM, WIDTH 28 CM, DEPTH 6 CM - ACRYLIC PAINT AND GLITTER ON MIRROR

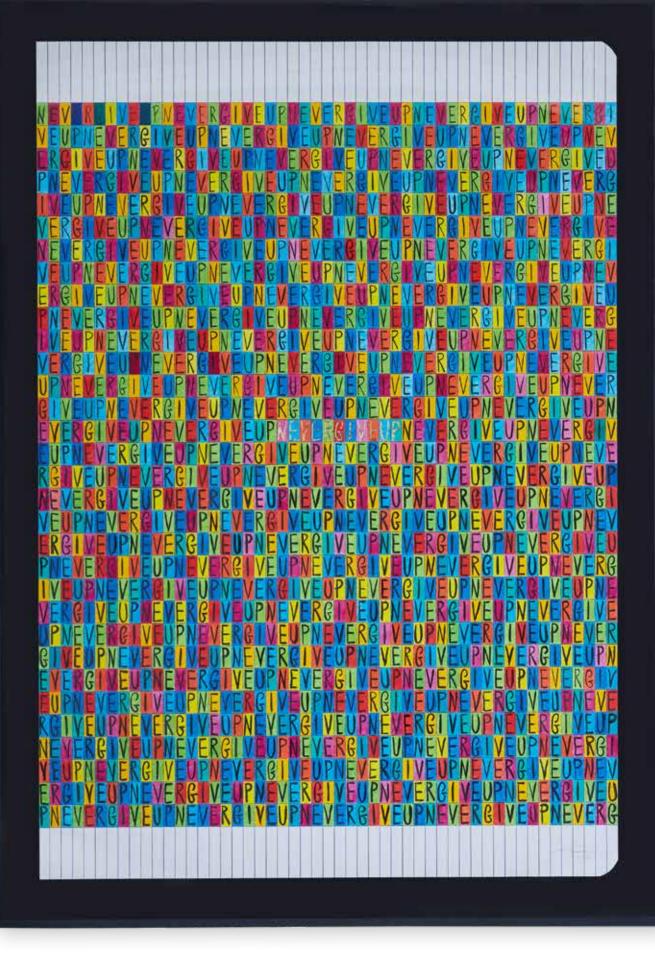






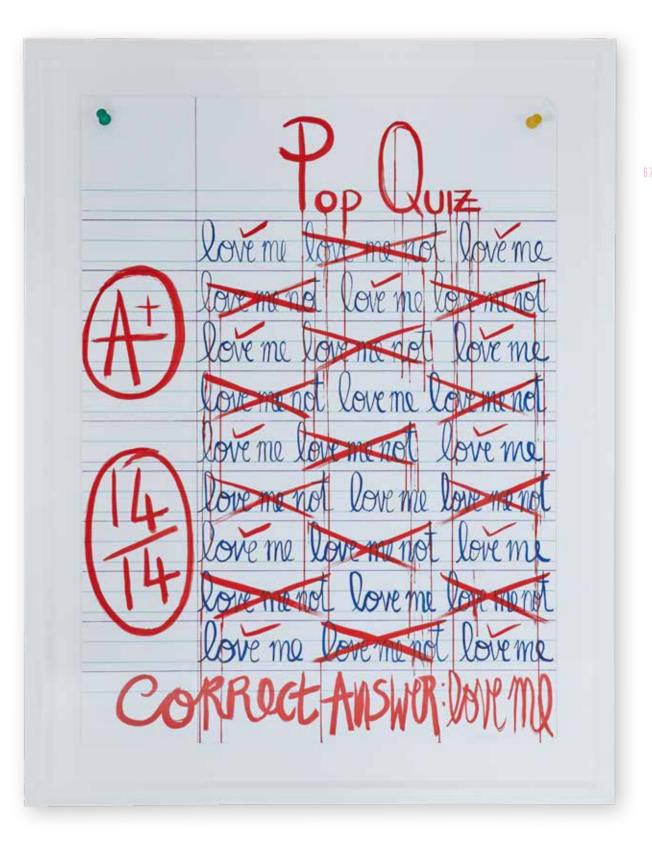
WORLD NEWS - LOVE SEEKING JUSTICE - 2020 - HEIGHT 68 CM, WIDTH 49 CM - ACRYLIC PAINT AND GLITTER ON NEWSPAPER Le monde of love - 2020 - Height 68 cm, width 49 cm - Acrylic Paint and Glitter on Newspaper

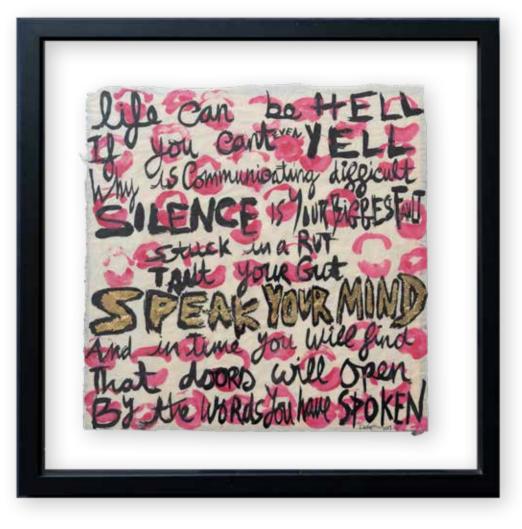




NEVER GIVE UP - THE GOLDEN RULE - 2016 - HEIGHT 236 CM, WIDTH 170 CM - ACRYLIC AND INDIAN INK, GOLD LEAF ON ENLARGED SCHOOL NOTEBOOK PAPER

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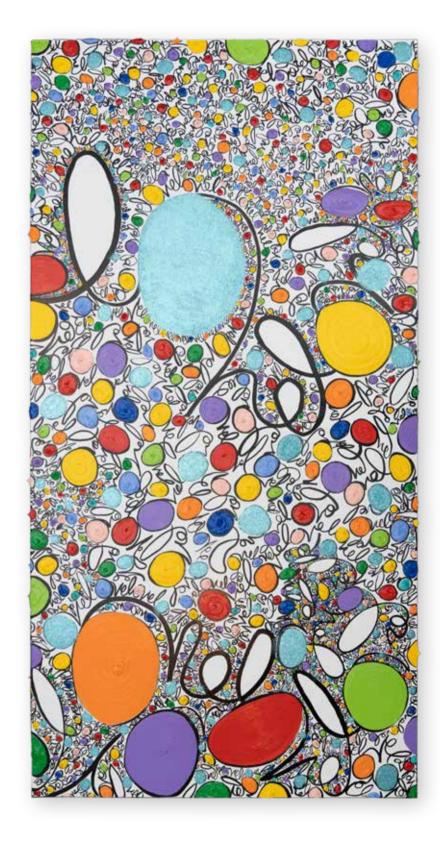
LIFE CAN BE HELL IF YOU CAN'T EVEN YELL WHY IS COMMUNICATING DIFFICULT? SILENCE IS YOUR BIGGEST FAULT Stuck in a rut Trust your gut Speak your mind And in time you will find That doors will open By the words you have spoken

SPEAK YOUR MIND - 2019 - HEIGHT 48 CM, WIDTH 48 CM - CHINESE INK, GESSO AND GOLD LEAF ON CHINESE PAPER

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NEVER GIVE UP WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH **NEVER GIVE UP** WHEN YOU FUCK-UP **NEVER GIVE UP** WHEN YOU ARE IN A RUT **NEVER GIVE UP** WHEN LIFE SUCKS **NEVER GIVE UP** WHEN THE SYSTEM IS CORRUPT **NEVER GIVE UP** WHEN THE FUTURE LOOKS FUCKED **NEVER GIVE UP** DON'T SELF-DESTRUCT **NEVER GIVE UP** TRY TO RECONSTRUCT **NEVER GIVE UP**





——74







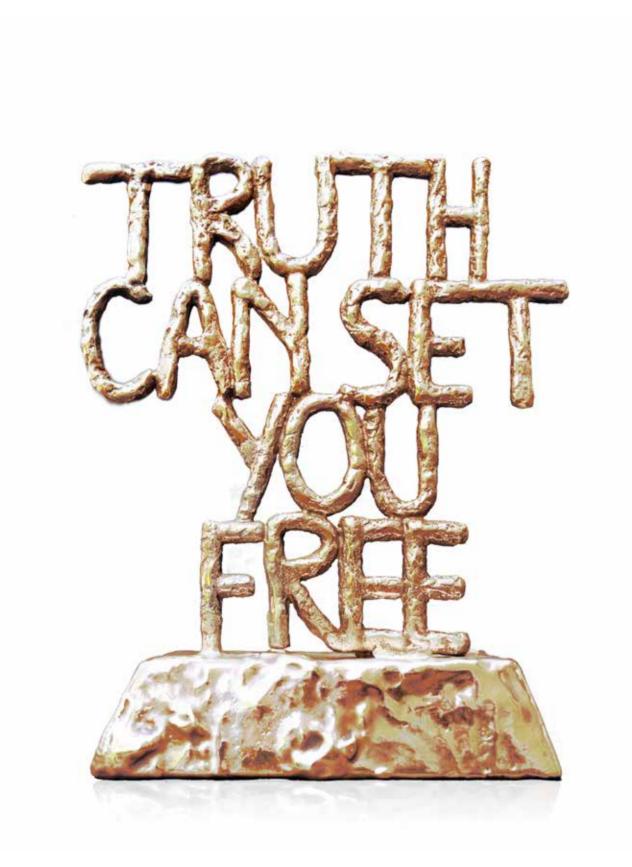




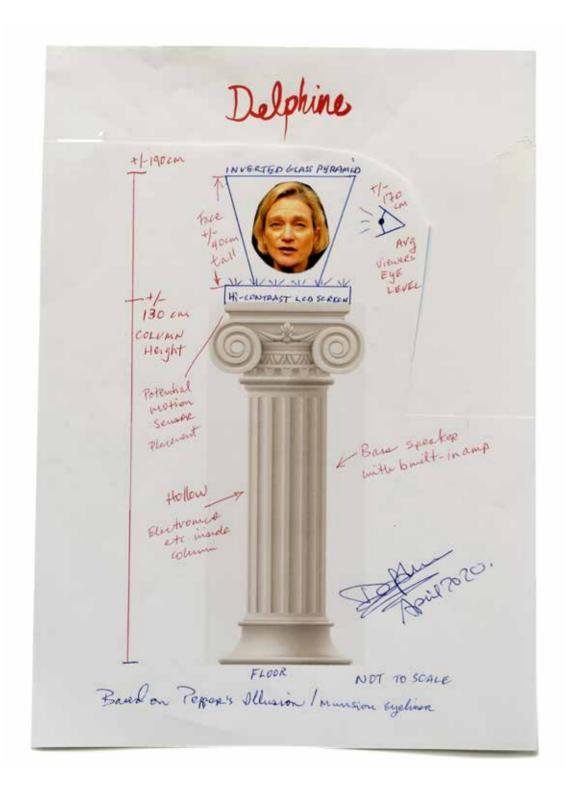
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE FINE - 2020 - HEIGHT 112 CM, WIDTH 58 CM, DEPTH 5 CM - ACRYLIC PAINT AND INDIAN INK ON CANVAS

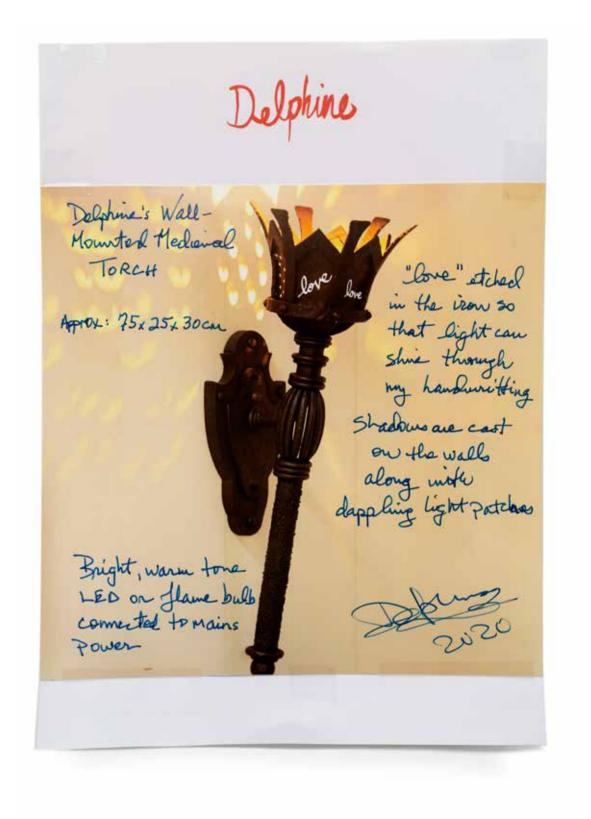






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The Attitude of Choice by Charles Swindell

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education than money, than circumstances, than failure, than successes, than what other people think or say or do.

It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a *choice* everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past....we cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our Attitudes." "Neon sui It allows r with a sen aided by f BIOGRAPHY

b. 1968 Brussels, Belgium BA (Honours) 1991, Chelsea School of Art, London UK

Delphine Boël is an Anglo-Belgian artist. Delphine grew up in London and worked there as an artist until 2003, when she moved to Brussels to set up a new studio. In addition to her gallery and museum exhibitions, she has successfully worked on art-related projects with several global companies including COCA-COLA, BIC, ABSOLUT and the RED CROSS.

Delphine has earned a voice in the European art world as a non-conformist statement artist and colourist. She is known for creating multimedia artworks overflowing with colour, texture and humour that address universal themes. From painting, video, neon sculpture and metal design pieces, her artworks are vibrant, playful and quirky. They are capable of lovingly inspiring the dispossessed, while also abruptly bringing the powerful and prideful back to reality. Issues of identity, power and justice often inspire Delphine's work. Part of her artistic motivation is to offer the viewer a chance to see the bright side of life.

Delphine's explicit use of words and language make her messages very straightforward, while her use of colour and composition leaves space for whimsy and irony.



EXHIBITIONS

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017	NEVER GIVE UP - Museum of Ixelles, Brussels, Belgium	
	OBSESSED WITH LOVE - WM Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium	
2016	LOVE LIFE - Eastmen Gallery, Hasselt, Belgium	
2015	LOVE ME, LOVE ME NOT - Gallery Francis Noel, Liege, Belgium	
2014	PRAY HARDER - Gallery Guy Pieters, Knokke-Le Zoute, Belgium	
2013	HAPPY SADNESS - Galerie Paul Janssen, Grimaud and Saint Tropez, France	
2012	TALKING TO THE DEAF - WM Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium	
2011	Galerie Dany Liehrmann, Liege, Belgium	
	We Are Different Gallery, Brussels, Belgium	
	Gallery Studio 2000, Blaricum, The Netherlands	
2010	OBSESSED WITH THE TRUTH, SEEKING SINCERITY AT ALL COSTS -	
	Gallery Guy Pieters, Knokke-Le Zoute, Belgium	
2009	Gallery Guy Pieters, Knokke-Le Zoute, Belgium	
2008	Gallery Guy Pieters, Sint Martens Latem, Belgium	
2002	Hyper-Space Gallery, curated by Marie-Puck Broodthaers, Brussels, Belgium	
1999	L' Equipe Anglaise, London, UK	

GROUP EXHIBITIONS AND ART FAIRS

2020	CLAIRE-OBSCURE - Galerie Paul Janssen, St. Tropez, France	
2019	HABITER L'INTIME - Fondation Thalie, Brussels, Belgium, curated by Anne Pontégnie	
	ART PARIS - Grand Palais, represented by The Belgian Gallery	
	H2EAU - Galerie Paul Janssen, St. Topez, France	
	TOUT EST POP - The Belgian Gallery, Namur, Belgium	
	NAMUR FINE ART FAIR - Namur, Belgium, represented by The Belgian Gallery	
2018	SEPT FEMMES - La Galerie Nardone, Brussels, Belgium	
2016 ADOPTIE - Museum Doctor Guislain, Gent, Belgium		
	voyolles - Trois Riviers, Florac, France; Bibliotheque Nucera, Nice, France; and	
	L'Ambre Art Center, Casablanca, Morocco, curated by Christian Balmier	
	BRAFA ART FAIR - Brussels, Belgium, represented by the Lancz Gallery	
	ART UP! - Lille, France, represented by Gallery Francis Noel	
	BELGIAN ART AND DESIGN - Ghent, Belgium, represented by the Eastman Gallery	
	FOREVER BUBOX - Kortrijk, Belgium, curated by Jerome Jacobs and Gery Van Tendeloo	
	8E AVENUE CONTEMPORARY AND URBAN ART FAIR - Paris, France, represented by	
	Galerie Francis Noel	
2015	ART AS JEWELRY FROM PICASSO TO JEFF KOONS - Vitraria Glass +A Museum, Venice,	
	curated by Diane Venet and Ewald Stastny, Italy	
	L'ART QUE PARLE - Galerie Paul Janssen, Grimaud and St. Tropez, France	
2013	ART-A - WM Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium	
	ART MIAMI 2013 - represented by the Cynthia Corbett Gallery	

2012	FACE IT! ABSOLUT DELPHINE - Spiritmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden,
	curated by Mia Sundberg,
	NERVOUS WOMEN - Museum Doctor Guislain, Gent, Belgium
	SUPERSTITION: 13 PAINTERS AND ME - Galerie Valerie Bach, Brussels, Belgium.
	curated by Pascal Bernier
	women's roundabout - Artiscope Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
	тне кіss - Galerie Emilie Dujat, Brussels, Belgium
	LET'S COMMUNICATE - Gallery Salve Europa, Leipzig, Germany
	ART SOUTHHAMPTON - Southampton, New York, represented by
	The Cynthia Corbett Gallery UK
	MULTIPLIED - Christie's South Kensington, London, represented by
	the Cynthia Corbett Gallery UK
	HOUSTON FINE ART FAIR - Houston, Texas, represented by
	The Cynthia Corbett Gallery UK
	ART MIAMI 2012 - Special Public Sculpture Project curated by Julia Draganovic,
	Claudia Löffelholz, and Elena Forin, Miami, Florida, represented by
	The Cynthia Corbett Gallery UK
2009	THAT'S ALL, FOLKS! - Hallen Belfort, Brugge, Belgium, curated by Michel Dewilde
2009	and Jerome Jacobs
2008	POWER TO THE PEOPLE - Aeroplastics Contemporary Gallery, Brussels, Belgium,
2000	curated by Pierre-Yves Desaive
	-
	ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - Brenart Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
2007	CONCEPT - Pierre Bergé, Le Sablon, Brussels, Belgium, Gallery L'Espace Art 22,
	Brussels, Belgium
	TRUC TROC - Wolu-Culture Centre, hosted by BOZAR, Brussels (2007-2014)
2004	LOOKING INSIDE: AN INTROSPECTIVE JOURNEY - with Fernand Vanderplanke
	Abdijhoeve Ten Bogaerde/Abbaye de la Dune, Koksijde, Belgium
	on s'est déjà rencontré quelque part? -Bruxelles En Scene Museum,
	Brussels, Belgium, curated by Serge Goldwicht, International AIDS Awareness Day
	LOVE IS IN THE AIR - curated by Marie-Puck Broodthaers, Matrix, Brussels, Belgium
2003	ABSOLUT DELPHINE, ABSOLUT GENERATIONS - Palazzo Zenobio, Venice
	Biennale representing Belgium for ABSOLUT with Wim Delvoye
	Emporio Armani, Knights Bridge, London, UK
	SCULPTURES DU PARADIS, Hondschoote, Belgium
2001	FUNNY PECULIAR - with Sir Terrace Conran, Hulton Getty Gallery, London, UK
2000	woмen ву woмen - Portobello Art Festival 2000, Mattomando Gallery, London
	Nicolas Guedroitz Gallery, London, UK
	The Round House, London, UK
1992 - 2000	
	The Lemonade Factory, London, UK
	Guest Lecturer, Higher Institute for Fine Arts (HISK), Antwerp, Belgium 2002

Guest Lecturer, Maastricht Art School, Maastricht, Holland 2002

COLOPHON

Delphine Attitude

This book is published to commemorate Delphine's **Attitude** exposition at Gallery Guy Pieters, Knokke, Belgium during August and September 2020.

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	Motionmakers

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> Guy Pieters Gallery modern and contempory art

