

Artist Statement

Artemis Herber

I process corrugated cardboard, the ubiquitous signature for our globalized consumerism, into large-scale multilayered paintings. Through principles of disappearance, disintegration, and de-/collage, I share an underlying tale of environmental concerns embedded in a new Anthropocenic layer as a geological force transforming the planet.

Ongoing changes of our biosphere creating scorched earth of extortion, exhaust, mining, monoculture, and neglect of endless ends on Earth through economic driven political decisions, I propose polit-myth as an artistic strategy to seek a paradigm shift towards political decision that are motivated by environmental concerns of climate change caused by human activity that are rooted in myths and histories.

With a sense of urgency my large-scale paintings from recycled cardboard, combine artistic strategy, a deliberate use of selected materials (such as coal, marble, concrete, clays, dust), a metaphorical language that connects research and political status quo embedded into dys/utopian motives with underlying myths concerning the current condition on Earth to promote a directional change from the economies towards ecologies for critical political guidance. My work not only demands the viewer's attention beyond vivid painterly brushstrokes and crusted surfaces of multiple layers through principles of disintegration and reconstruction, but also the examination of current politics with emerging intertwining themes and also narratives from deep time. Contemporary societies are still affected by older mythological substrata that carry with them the sediments of to question 'promethean' narratives of human mastery.

I extensively explore ancient myths and localities with the "Rise of Gaia", a concept that is not just defined as just a search for the cliché idea of loss of nature or the traditional, but

overcome idea of “caring mother earth.” Moreover, it gives access to a “critical zone” described by Bruno Latour in the Gifford Lectures (2013) of our living sphere.

The creative use and re-envisioning of mythical material through a dis/utopian and complete different perception of our planet that is animated, inhabited, or distorted by otherworldly environments and being re-launched by hybrid-mythical landscapes, multi-time slices and layers, have a very distinct way - as a symbolic and poetic - of entering the sphere of the mytho-political, notably by presenting ideology as a natural condition of the world at large. I radically investigated into experimental explorations to find Gaia not as a deity from deep times, but as entities that relate to our times of crisis where Earth including all earth-bounders (human and non-humans) are at risk through an ongoing cataclysmic event of climate change and extinction.