



Prune Nourry, *Terracotta Daughters*, exhibition, Magda Danysz Gallery, Shanghai, September 2013

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*FLUX Laboratory presents*

## Prune Nourry *TERRACOTTA DAUGHTERS*

Sculpture, installation and video

Opening at FLUX LABORATORY Schiffbau 5, Zurich, on

Friday, June 13, 2014, from 6pm

with a gustatory performance by Prune Nourry

Exhibition until July 11

### *TERRACOTTA DAUGHTERS*

Pursuing her *Holy Daughters* project in India, Prune Nourry now reflects upon **gender preference in China**. India and China alone represent 1/3 of the world population and both encounter a similar gender imbalance. This sociological phenomenon is due to the preference parents give to having a son. The number of single men has been increasing ever since the 1980's, and the misuse of ultrasounds to select the sex of the child. This leads to disastrous consequences for the situation of women in Asia (kidnappings of children and women, forced marriages, prostitution, population migrations...). This exhibition not only shows Prune's latest work *Terracotta Daughters*, creating an impressive installation through an army of 108 life-size terracotta girls, but is also enhanced, during the opening evening, through a **culinary performance by Prune Nourry**, inspired by archeology. This performance is elaborated in collaboration with Gianni Segantini and his team, in charge of the catering.

The work process for each one of Prune's projects always begins with a research trip where she meets specialists on the societal subject of interest. **It's at the University of Xi'an that the most eminent sociologists study the question of gender preference in China, notably Professor Li Shuzhuo.** Prune interviewed him in June 2012 during her first research trip for this new project. Li Shuzhuo initiated the Care for Girls government campaign aiming to ameliorate the condition of girls within Chinese families.

**It's also in Xi'an that are located the Terracotta Warriors - familiar symbol that Prune has chosen as inspiration to her project.** The artist acknowledges the beauty and cultural richness of the Chinese artifacts dating back to 210 BC. The army that was discovered in March 1974 by farmers digging a wall, had for purpose of protecting China's first emperor Qin Shi in the afterlife. The warriors are now a national pride, exhibited all around the world, and registered as a UNESCO site. Estimated at more than 8,000 and measuring between 1.80 and 2 meters, the soldiers are all unique.



Terracotta Soldiers, Xi'an, China

### Terracotta Daughters : The collaboration

Emulating the style and ancient techniques of the Terracotta Warriors, Prune collaborates with local Xi'an artisans specialized in the copies of the terracotta soldiers to create the *Terracotta Daughters* project.



Prune and the craftsmen team, Xi'an, China  
photo © Zachary Bako



Molding of the *Terracotta daughter* #3, Huiyun by local craftsmen,

## Terracotta Daughters : The 8 « original » sculptures

Prune sculpts 8 life-size *Terracotta Daughters* modeled after 8 Chinese orphan girls. The clay used in the process is the same one that was dug up over 2,000 years ago for the original warriors. For this project, the artist learns the local copyists' technique based on the ancient practice.



*Terracotta Daughter #5*, Yue, terracotta, 150 x 47 cm, work in progress, photo © Zachary Bako



Prune Nourry sculpting the *Terracotta Daughter #2* photo © Zachary Bako  
© Prune Nourry 2014

Once her 8 original sculptures completed and molded, Prune gives the craftsmen a table of 108 combinations. Based on this document, **they use the molds interchangeably to create an army of 108 life-size *Terracotta Daughters***. Then, Prune invited one of the artisans, Xian Feng, to interpret her work and to become an artist himself. **Xian Feng individually signs and personalizes each face to make each *Terracotta Daughter* unique**, as it was done with the ancient soldiers, and he signs them.



Xian Feng modifying the 108 heads based on Prune's *Terracotta Daughters* photo © Zachary Bako



108 unique heads based on Prune's 8 original models of the *Terracotta Daughters*  
photo © Zachary Bako

Prune developed a number of different artworks inspired by the project, ranging from 8 bronze heads of the girls, mini versions of the original life-size *Terracotta Daughters* in bronze and in fired clay, bronze sculptures of the molds used to cast her sculptures - catching the process in time - and lithographs produced at the iconic Item studio in Paris. She is also currently directing a full feature movie about *Terracotta Daughters*.



*Terracotta Daughter #1 (Head), Pan, bronze, head and mold, 40 cm, photo © Anne Gloria Lefevre*



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Prune met the 8 orphan Chinese girls that inspired the artworks of the project through the non-profit organization The Children of Madaifu, which was founded in 1999 by Marcel Roux, former Vice-President of Doctors without Borders. She photographed the girls during her visit of their respective villages in August 2012, and uses the portraits as models for the sculptures.

With the idea of continuity in mind, Prune works hand-in-hand with The Children of Madaifu to support the education of the 8 little girls for a minimum of 3 years thanks to the sale of the 8 original sculptures. In addition, the girls will also receive a 30 cm artist proof of Prune's *Mini Terracotta Daughter*.

Thus, each collector who acquires one of the 8 unique original terracotta sculptures supports the project, as well as 3 years of the education of the little girl depicted in the Artwork.



The 8 Chinese models for Prune's army met through the NGO Madaifu

The army was presented for the first time in Shanghai, at the gallery Magda Danysz. **The 108 life-size sculptures were displayed in accordance to the archeological site from which they are inspired.** This exhibition is then followed by a show in Paris simultaneously at Le Centquatre and the Magda Danysz gallery from March to May 2014, as well as in Zurich at the Flux Laboratory in June, in New York in September-October 2014 and in Mexico City in November-December. The army will return to China in 2015 to be buried as a «contemporary archeological site», until 2030 when the 108 *Terracotta Daughters* will be excavated.



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After presenting the *Holy Daughters* in Geneva in March 2013, the Flux Laboratory is inviting Prune Nourry to show her latest work, *Terracotta Daughters* in Zurich in June 2014.

We are pleased to collaborate once more with the curator Tatyana Franck on this project, who has already curated the *Holy Daughters* and *Holy River* exhibitions in Paris, NYC and Geneva.



Prune Nourry and the Craftsman team, Xi'an, China, 2012, photo © Zachary Bako

## PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE PRESS

### OBLIGATORY CAPTION :

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*Terracotta Daughters*

+ details of the chosen picture

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## BIOGRAPHY PRUNE NOURRY

### PRUNE NOURRY STUDIO

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Born in 1985

Lives and works in New York, NY

Current residency at the Invisible Dog art center, Brooklyn, NY

### Selected Exhibitions, Conferences and Performances:

#### 2014

- Terracotta Daughters, Avec Motifs Apparents, Collective Show curated by José Manuel Gonçalves, Le CentQuatre
- Terracotta Daughters, Solo Show, Magda Danysz Gallery, Paris, France
- French Institute, New York : Discussion and film projection with Chien Chung (Didi) Pei, Chair of the Board of Trustees of China Institute

#### 2013

- Terracotta Daughters, Solo show, Galerie Magda Danysz, Shanghai, China
- The Archeological Dinner, Performance in collaboration with Unico Collagreco, Magda Danysz Gallery, Shanghai, China
- Genesis, Solo show curated by Gaelle Porte, Casino Venier, Venice, Italy
- At Home, Group show, Contemporary Art Center, Malaga, Spain.
- Holy Daughters, Solo Show curated by Tatyana Franck at Flux Laboratory, Geneva, Switzerland.
- Le Dîner Procréatif, Performance in collaboration with Chef Jean Imbert, Flux Laboratory, Geneva, Switzerland.
- Holy Daughters, Solo Show at Galerie Henrik Springmann, Berlin, Germany.

#### 2012

- Nominated for Go Brooklyn, a community-curated project by the Brooklyn

Museum, New York, USA.

- Holy Daughters, Solo show, curated by Tatyana Franck at The Invisible Dog Art Center, New York, USA.

#### 2011

- Holy River, Performance in collaboration with the Calcutta Arts Club, Kolkata, India.
- Spermbar, Installation and performance on 5th Avenue, commissioned by The French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) for Crossing the Line Festival, New York, USA.
- Holy Daughters, Video projection, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France.
- Holy Daughters, group show, Polka Gallery, Paris, France.
- Holy Daughters, Art Paris art fair at Grand Palais, Polka Gallery, Paris, France.
- Holy Daughters, Solo show, curated by Tatyana Franck, Paris, France.

#### 2010

- Holy Daughters, Performance, New Delhi, India.
- India Habitat Center, New Delhi. Conference Holy Daughters, with the sociologist Ravinder Kaur, moderated by Alka Pande, art adviser and curator.
- The Emergence of Contemporary Indian Art, Musée du Quai Branly, Paris. Moderated by Christine Ithurbide, a researcher in contemporary art.
- India Habitat Center, New Delhi. Conference Holy Daughters, with the sociologist Ravinder Kaur, moderated by Alka Pande, art adviser and curator.
- The Emergence of Contemporary Indian Art, Musée du Quai Branly, Paris. Moderated by Christine Ithurbide, a researcher in contemporary art.

#### 2009

- Le Dîner Procréatif, Performance and solo show, l'Espace « R », Geneva, Switzerland.
- Le Dîner Procréatif, Performance, the Laboratory Studio, Paris, France.
- Gimme More, Group show, Elaine Levy Gallery, Brussels, Belgium.

- Interview, Science Po, Paris. Moderated by Malvika Maheshwari, Professor.

- Auditorium of the Louvre, Paris.

Moderated by Sonia Brunel, speaker of National Museums.

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## 2008

- Les Bébés Domestiques, Group show, KJBi Art Space, Brussels, Belgium.

- Les Bébés Domestiques, Performance, Tokyo, Japan.

- Les Bébés Domestiques, Art Brussels art fair, Elaine Levy Gallery, Brussels, Belgium. Publication of a book in limited edition.

- Adoption Day #2, Performance in collaboration with Elaine Levy Gallery, Brussels, Belgium.

- How we draw the borderline between humans and animals: Challenging art experiments with hybrid pet babies, University of Tokyo. Moderated by Noriko Nijiima, sociologist.

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## 2007

- Les Bébés Domestiques, Installation, Max Lang Gallery, New York, USA.

- Adoption Day #1, Performance, in collaboration with Jaguar Shoes Gallery, London, England.

- Group show, Biennial of Issy, Carte à Jouer Museum, Issy-les Moulineaux, France.

- L'animalerie, site-specific installation, reconstitution of animal house, Quai de la Mégisserie, Paris, France.

- Interview, Science Po, Paris. Moderated by Gerard Rodach, Professor.

## 2006

- Wooster on Spring, Group show, New York, USA.

- Aux Arts Citoyens, Group show, Espace des Blancs Manteaux, Paris, France.

## 2004

- Group show, Galerie « M », Paris, France.

- Toit et Moi, two-person exhibition with the artist JR, La Loge Gallery, Paris, France.

## Education

### 2006

- Ecole Boule, Paris, specialized in wood sculpture. Graduated with honors and the AEEB prize.

