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Galerie Ritsch-Fisch

Hervé Bohnert (born in 1967) pushes our perception of death to its limits, but also, paradoxically, of life. In his work, the tortured flesh remains curiously joyful. A self-taught and unclassifiable artist, he pushes the boundaries of Outsider Art into rarely explored territories, revisiting the tradition of *memento mori* and funeral arts, relics of a bygone past that still haunt our time.



Constantly searching for the object imbued with meaning, Bohnert selects only pieces rich in history: forgotten sepia photographs, 18th-century baroque sculptures, Henri II furniture, or massive caryatids, which he meticulously strips down, revealing skeletons sculpted with astonishing anatomical mastery. His work oscillates between dread and fascination, with every gesture echoing the macabre elegance of vanitas.

The partially skeletal figures, sometimes smeared with paint or blood, evoke neither repulsion nor horror. Their grace, subtly resurrected by the artist's hand, invites serene contemplation. In Bohnert's work, the confrontation with death becomes an invitation to life. This paradox, which he stages with a touch of mischievous irony, challenges our relationship with existence and oblivion.

Without the artist's intervention, these objects—abandoned statues, faded photographs, everyday relics—would be condemned to oblivion, their stories erased by time. In this, Bohnert does not merely sculpt matter; he revives memories, breathing life back into what seemed destined for dust, reminding us, ultimately, that we too are still in motion, still alive.

## Major Exhibitions:

- 10-2022 / 05-2023: Musée Würth, Erstein
- 2022: Art Paris, Grand Palais Éphémère, Outsider Art Fair, Paris (FR)
- 2018: Nightmares of the Past, Musée Alsacien, Strasbourg (FR)
- 2018: Abbey of Auberive, Contemporary Art Center, Auberive (FR)
- 2018: The Twilight is Grandiose, Former Tobacco Factory, Strasbourg (FR)
- 2017: Nightmares of the Past, Musée Alsacien, Strasbourg (FR)
- 2017: Der tanzende Tod und andere Turbulenzen, Fisher Kunsthandel & Edition, Berlin (DE)
- 2016: Time Passes, Memories Remain, The Route of Icons, Grauffthal Church (FR)
- 2015: *Hey Act III*, Halle Saint-Pierre, Paris (FR)
- Le mur, Maison Rouge – Fondation Antoine de Galbert, Paris (FR)
- 2013: *Hey Act II*, Halle Saint-Pierre, Paris (FR)
- 2009: Faire avec, Le Maillon, Théâtre de Strasbourg (FR)