

-- PRESS RELEASE --

Julien Friedler – Boz Mythology

An exhibition of paintings spanning symbolism and abstraction

The Stash Gallery, London E1

25 April – 11 May 2019

Opening view: Thursday 25 April

<https://www.instagram.com/julienfriedler/>



Allegorie, 2017, acrylic on paper, 46x60cm © Julien Friedler

This spring sees the first major UK showing of Belgian artist [Julien Friedler](#). Consisting of 40 intimate works on paper, it is the first significant outing for the Belgian artist in the country and an introduction to Friedler's intriguing body of work.

Well-known across Europe and the US, Friedler's work defies the surface activity found in much contemporary art. His works – which include paintings, drawings, writings as well as events – are informed by mythology: of spirits and mystical entities within ethereal universes. Both contemplative and exuberant, they are replete with tensions between space and solidity. The works in Box Mythology reward slow reflection.

An ex-psychoanalyst – and a long-time pupil of Jacques Lacan – Friedler has long studied mythology and anthropology, and brings these ideas to his work. He has a

worldwide association called the [Spirit of Boz](#), which aims to establish exchanges and links with a global community. Inaugurated in 2006, the **Tour of Boz** is to operate for 80 years, bringing the Spirit of Boz to all parts of the world, supported by Friedler's Belgium-based **Boz Foundation**.

In the tradition of culture exchanges of Robert Rauschenberg and Fluxus – the Spirit of Boz uses the power of art as a catalyst for global interaction, and updated as a source of communion in the internet age.

Sometimes compared to the Belgian artist James Ensor, Friedler's paintings combines aspects of the grotesque and carnivalesque with a dramatic use of colour. Seen at many exhibitions including 2018's Outsider Art fair in Paris, offers a sense of both transcendence and introspection now unusual in the contemporary art sphere.

He believes that art is a human activity that expresses universal concerns, beliefs and emotions – and Friedler is a believer in Joseph Beuys' dictum that "Every one of us is capable of doing creative or artistic work". Like Beuys, Friedler believes that art can be a philosophical, moral and even existential programme: using the power of the subconscious to awaken the spirits of the age.

"Art is not entertainment. It is more a power that is self-generating – a mystery that we need to probe."

Julien Friedler

Boz Mythology by Julien Friedler

25 April – 11 May 2019

Open 5pm-10.30pm, Monday-Saturday or by appointment on 07753702910

- For more information, interviews, comment and hi-res images, please call Oliver Bennett (obennettpr@gmail.com, 07764 941873)

- For extra information, interviews and comment, mail art historian and Friedler authority Dominique Stella at stelladomi@orange.fr
- For special gallery appointments and sales, get in touch with Friedler's UK representative Phoebe Tait at phoebetait@me.com or 07947 017339

For high-res images, please follow this googledrive link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VBLBT2nnPENai2Wdd_Q2UiYu7NtZYFX5/view

About Julien Friedler

Born: 1950, Brussels

Currently lives and works in Monaco

Solo Exhibitions

2018

Behind the World, Complesso Vittoriano, Roma

La Parole des Anges, Cité Miroir, Liège

Vibrations, Madonna del Duomo Vecchio, Arezzo

Be Boz Be Art and Friedler's paintings, galleria GliAcrobati,
Turin

Spirit of Boz Paintings, Berlaymont Building, Commission
Européenne, Bruxelles

2017

Accrochage, Spirit of Boz Association, Knokke

La Forêt des âmes, Chiesa Santi Giovanni e Paolo, Spoleto

Boz Legend, Castello di Rivara-Museo d'Arte

Contemporanea, Rivara (To)

Face to Face, Museo Villa Croce, Genova e Galleria Unimedia

Modern, Genoa

2016

La Forêt des âmes, Museoteatro della Commenda di Pré,

Genoa

Retro Boz, Museo delle Arti Visive, Palazzo Collicola, Spoleto

(cat.)

La Forêt des mes, Alliance française, Venezia

Mania Boz, Museo Civico Villa Bassi, Abano Terme

2015

Mania Boz, Fondazione, Mudima, Milano (cat.)

Amok & Kalinka, Riflemaker, 79 Beak Street, London

Tre opere e incontro sul tema L'Artista sciamano with

Philippe Daverio and Julien Friedler, former Anglican

Church, Bordighera, Italy

2014-2015

Voyage, Museo civico Archeologico Girolamo Rossi - Forte

dell'Annunziata, Ventimiglia, Italy (Cat.)

2012

Galerie Gourvennec-Ogor, Marseille

2010

Spirit of Boz, the Truth of the Labyrinth, CW Gallery, New

York

2009

MUBE, São Paulo

Dialogues, The National Gallery For Foreign Art, Sofia

Jack Balance, Christopher Henry Gallery, New York

2008

Be Boz, Heilig Kreuz Kirche – Sotheby's, Munich

2007

In Quest, curated by Michel Dewilde – Galerie Philippe

Seghers, Oostende

2005

The Innocents (Music: Messiaen, text: Primo Levi)

La Parole des Anges, Galerie Philippe Cazeau La Beraudiere,

Paris

2004

Paroles et Paraboles ou le Mythe en question, Passage de

Retz, Paris

Memories, David Di Maggio Gallery, Berlin

2003

L'Infanzia dell'Arte, curator: Dominique Stella, Fondazione

Mudima, Milan (cat.)

Group Exhibitions

2018

Outsider Art Fair, Paris

Galleria Gli Acrobati, Torino

Labrys, The Truth of the Labyrinth, Gorizia, Italia Labrys,
The Truth of the Labyrinth, Spazio Testoni, Bologna.

2017

Outsider Art Fair, Paris

Galleria M&M, Genoa

2016

International Art Project 2016, Cap d'Ail

Gilgamesh, for inauguration of Fondazione Casa della Divina

Bellezza, Forza d'Agrò

Fiera di Bologna, Spazio Testoni, Bologna.

2015

La Vérité du Labyrinthe, with Rebecca Ballestra, Spazio

Testoni, Bologna

La Parole des Anges, Biennale 2015, with Rebecca Ballestra,

Palazzo Molin, Venice (cat.)

Bienal de las Fronteras Taumapilas

2011

Inauguration, Galerie Gourvennec-Ogor, Marseille Mix the

Path, Heidi Galerie, Nantes

2009

African Icons, Curator: Isolde Brielmaier, Galerie Jack

Shainman, New York

2007

The Demoiselles Revisited, Francis Naumann Gallery, New

York

2005

Armory Show, Galerie Roger Pailhas, New York

2004

De Leur Temps – Collections privées françaises, Musée des

Beaux Arts, Tourcoing

Vanitas, Eitelkeit der Eitelkeiten, IKOB, Eupen

2003

Art Brussels, Galerie Damasquine, Brussels Art Basel, Galerie

Roger Pailhas, Basel

Publications

- Retro Boz/Mania Boz, text by Dominique Stella,

Gianluca Marziani, ed. Mudima, Milano, 2016

- Mania Boz, text by Dominique Stella, Gianluca Ranzi, ed. Mudima, Milano, 2015
- Maria Rebeca Ballestra/Julien Friedler, Text by Dominique Stella, Palazzo Molin del Cuoridoro, Venezia, 2015
- Spirit of Boz, Julien Friedler, Jacques Flament Editions, La Neuville aux Joutes, 2014
- Julien Friedler, de la Métaphysique de L'errance, de Sonia Bressler, Jacques Flament Editions, La Neuville aux Joutes, 2013
- Double Vue, 50 fragments pour Julien Friedler de Nobert Hillaire, Somogy Editions d'Art Paris, 2012

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