

FOMO-VOX

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Art Brussels 2024 : Interview Ciléne Andréhn, Andréhn-Schiptjenko Gallery

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Co-founder and director with Marina Schiptjenko of **Andréhn-Schiptjenko** Gallery, **Ciléne Andréhn** reveals her commitments, challenges and the turning points of her career. The Gallery is participating for the first time to **Art Brussels** '40 th edition which is exciting and challenging ! It's part of the internationalisation of the artistic program of the gallery as the underlines. Being in Paris since 5 years a very vibrant city in terms of artistic approach is a great accomplishment for the duo. Ciléne reveals us the selection of artists for their official entrance in the Belgian market, « a wish to engage locally ».

Educated in Sweden, Swaziland and France, Ciléne Andréhn has served on the selection committees of some of the top art fairs, reviewing and selecting her peers. She has also been a member of the board of the Association of the Friends of Moderna Museet, Sweden's major national museum as well as of Konsthall Marabouparken, a public contemporary art space. She also co-founded and chaired Sthlm Sthlm Sthlm, a collaborative initiative together with museums and institutions with the objective of promoting the Stockholm art scene by inviting key collectors and museum directors from abroad. She has been a frequent lecturer at the Royal Academy of Art in Stockholm as well as at the Masters programme for Curatorial Studies at Stockholm University where she is also part of the advisory board. She now primarily directs Andréhn-Schiptjenko in Paris, where the gallery opened in 2019, while maintaining its Stockholm space.



· **Andréhn-Schiptjenko is participating to Art Brussels 24 : what will be the highlights presented ?**

We always present very few artists at art fairs, that way everyone is a highlight :). For Art Brussels we have chosen to present two Swedish artists, Lena Johansson, a young figurative painter dealing with glamour and desire, and Matts Leiderstam, a confirmed artist dealing with painting and art history in a very conceptual way. We are also showing exceptional works, wall objects and photography by Mexican artist Martin Soto Climent, as well exceptional new sculptures by French artist Xavier Veilhan. Together they give a good picture of the gallery's programme, the common denominator of their practice is a conceptual approach to their medium.

· **What is your vision of belgian scene ?**

We are excited to be going to Brussels, having quite a few connections to the scene since a number of years. The collectors are very sophisticated and the institutions are curious and Belgians travel a lot. And a lot of people go to Brussels too, it is in any ways a hub.

· **What are Andréhn-Schiptjenko main issues in Paris ?**

We will be celebrating 5 years in Paris in late May and time has gone quickly but a lot has happened as well. After three years in a small "project-space" type of setting we now have a larger gallery and that is a testament to our increased commitment to the city. Paris' position as a major center for contemporary arts has been even more confirmed, as manifested through the establishment of many more international galleries here and also the arrival of Art Basel. That being said, I think it is important to not just have an international mindset but to also Sabine Mirlesse, Ranti Bam and Cecilia Bengolea who will all be showing in 2024. Our decision to participate in Art Brussels also comes from a wish to engage locally in a broader European sense.

· **Do you feel confident regarding art market this year ?**

Well, I think it is prudent to never be too confident about the market... We are living in a time of wars, widening gaps between the ultra-rich and everyone else, social unrest and climate change, of course these matters create a general uncertainty. However, having been around for a while one knows the art market fluctuates but really good work is always appreciated.

· **Why did you decide to focus on art and become a gallerist ?**

Because there were things that I felt were important and needed to be shown and that I enjoy the simultaneous aspects of activism and generosity that characterize a gallery.

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Lena Johansson *Sense and Sensibility; Clean Girl (Short Story)*, 2023 Oil on MDF 70 x 55 cm (27 1/2 x 21 5/8 in.)

Courtesy of the artist and Andréhn-Schiptjenko, Stockholm, Paris



• **What were the decisive people and moments regarding your career ?**

First my grandmother who was a big arts aficionado and took me to museums and galleries, then my mother who had a very independent spirit and career but of course most of all my business partner Marina Schiptjenko. We met while working together in early 1991, got fired by early summer and opened Andréhn-Schiptjenko in the fall of the same year – it's been 33 years and we still get along like a house on fire !

Practical Info :

Art Brussels 40th edition

April 25-28

Brussels Expo

<https://www.artbrussels.com/en/>

Organiser votre venue :

<https://www.visit.brussels/fr/visiteurs>

<https://www.eurostar.com/fr>

Actually at the gallery in Paris :

Ridley Howard Skylight

<https://www.andrehn-schiptjenko.com>