

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

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AFTER YEARS IN THE SHADOW
OF THE MEDIA-SAVVY YBAs,
FRENCH ART IS COMING IN
FROM THE COLD. A MULTI-
VENUE LONDON EXHIBITION
ORGANISED FOR THIS AUTUMN
INTENDS TO SHOW JUST WHAT
L'ART FRANÇAIS HAS BEEN UP
TO ALL THESE YEARS. HERE,
WE PREVIEW A GLIMPSE
OF THINGS TO COME...

THE FIVE BRITISH CURATORS who have chosen the work on the following pages were among the 24 partners of *Paris Calling*. In so doing, each has answered this question: which work by artists in France have you recently been struck or influenced by?

They agreed to take part for very different reasons. Some have had close connections with the contemporary French art scene for years (Suzanne Cotter, senior curator at Modern Art Oxford); others have particular knowledge (Jenni Lomax, the director of Camden Arts Centre; Stephen Hepworth, curator of the Bloomberg Space; and Hayward exhibition organiser, Caroline Hancock); and some, until now, had no idea what was going on in France (Tom Hanbury of the Dick Smith Gallery). But all, in my view, approached the question in a similarly open and generous way.

The starting point for *Paris Calling* was hardly original: to look at what's happening in French contemporary art with as much freedom as possible, and to work out what interests them. Of the 24 museums and galleries – both private and public – taking part, some haven't focussed on a single French artist, but chosen to work with curators or organisations to express their view of art at an international level.

Paris Calling is an act of collaboration on the part of the 24 participants from London. For the most part, they have taken a long hard look at the contemporary French scene and come to certain conclusions, and maybe forged relationships that will continue to grow.

SOPHIE CLAUDEL

'Paris Calling' opens with Pierre Huyghe, 5 July - 17 September, Tate Modern, www.tate.org.uk, and continues in a variety of venues until the end of the year



FRANÇOIS CURLET
Ann lee, la parthénogénèse
(2002-2003)
Bronze and paper, 15 x 11cm

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Courtesy: Air de Paris,
www.airdeparis.com