

MICHEL REIN BRUSSELS



Maria Thereza Alves
The Flood
23.11 - 23.12.2017

















I INHERITED FROM MY MOTHER'S FAMILY A PISTOL AND A COPPER POT.

MOST OF THE PISTOL WAS STOLEN IN NEW JERSEY BY MY DRUGGIE-THIEF DOWNSTAIRS NEIGHBOR.

(FROM MY FATHER'S
FAMILY A WHITE SHIRT)



TERMITES ARE ATTRACTED TO CATTLE COUNTRY,
ESPECIALLY ABANDONED AND DEGRADED PASTURE
FIELDS

THEY CONSTRUCT TOWERING MOUNDS WHICH LET IN AIR TO
THE CATTLE-COMPACTED EARTH
AND MAKE IT BEGIN TO LIVE





MY MOTHER SAID, "WHEN THEY COME, FLEE."

I DID, EVEN FOR ALL OF MY DOLLS IN THEIR DOLL - SIZED SUITCASES.

LATER A JEWISH FRIEND IN BERLIN SAID,

THAT IT WAS SIMILIAR TO JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVAL BEHAVIOR.

THAT FITS IN ONE SUITCASE.

I THEN ASKED MY MOTHER,

SHE SAID THAT HER MOTHER HAD SAID,

SHE NO LONGER KNEW.

SHE DISLIKED THE PORTUGUESE-

I ASKED HER WHO THEY WERE. SHE NO LONGER KNEW.

"WHY DO WE NEED TO KEEP OUR THINGS READY TO LEAVE?"

"WHEN THEY COME, FLEE."

BUT GRANDMOTHER DID,

DESCENDANT MAN WHO TOOK HER AND DISLIKED ALL THE CHILDREN HE MADE HER BEAR HIM.

SHE MATED WITH A JAGUAR

AND THE SUN AND MOON WERE BORN.

MANY OF US DO NOT REMEMBER THIS ANYMORE.





THE ATLANTIC RAINFOREST WAS CUT

AND EARTH BEGAN COLLAPSING INSIDE ITSELF AND DYING.

VOÇOROCA

THEY CALL THIS.

THEY SAY BEFORE THE EARTH FALLS IT POPS UP AND DOWN LIKE POPCORN

AND THEN THERE IS A HOLE.





THE TOWN WAS FOUNDED BY BANDEIRANTES, INDIAN KILLERS.

MY GRANDMOTHER DISLIKED HER PORTUGUESE-
DESCENDANT HUSBAND AND THE CHILDREN HE MADE HER HAVE.

MY MOTHER HAS BECOME PROUD OF BEING
FROM THE 'WHITE' PEREIRAS AS OPPOSED TO
THE 'BLACK' PEREIRAS —

ALTHOUGH WE ARE ALL RELATIVES.



AFTER THE CATTLE ECONOMY COLLAPSED DUE TO THE AFRICAN SPERRY SNOWS THAT KILLED SO MANY COWS THE TOWN WENT BAKERSHIRT.

HE ASKED THE REGION FOR ASSISTANCE AND THEY SAID, DANCE THE CARNIVAL FOR TOURISTS.

THE PRIEST HAD FORBIDDEN THE CARNIVAL SINCE 1430.

OUR FIRST CARNIVAL HAD THREE MUSIC AND DANCE BROTHERS. MY COUSIN AND I WERE IN THE RED DYE! GROUP WE TOOK OLD BEN SHEETS AND TRANSFORMED THEM INTO COSTUMES. NOW OVER A QUARTER OF A MILLION TOURISTS COME TO TOWN FOR THE CARNIVAL.

MY COUSIN'S HAVE BECOME PRINCE OF NEIGH CARNIVAL AND WE SAW PIECES OF OLDEN CLOTH ONTO CLOTHES TO SIMULATE TATTOOING OF KIPPERS TANTS LIKE A "POCK" WHOLE WEARE. WE HAVE BECOME DUTY DUTY.

THIS IS A CLOTH ORIGINALLY FROM PRESIDENT FOR MANY CENTURIES IT WAS CONSIDERED:

A SIGN OF LACKING IN GOOD TASTE! - GORDON'S SEEM TO LIKE MY COLOR.

A TEN-YEAR AGO IT BECAME FASHIONABLE FOR A WHILE WITH MODERN CLOTH BAKES IN THE CITY USING THE CLOTH FOR DRESS STERY.

BUT WAS ONLY BEEN SHOWN TO "WITCH"

NOW IT IS ILLEGAL TO CUT THE ATLANTIC RAIN FOREST.

LANDOWNERS PLANT EUCALYPTUS TREES TO FORM A RING

AROUND A REMNANT OF THE ATLANTIC RAIN FOREST

AND AS THESE TREES GROW THEY STRANGLE THE FOREST.

IT IS CALLED, STRANGULATION RING.



IT RAINED, IT HAD BEEN THE ATLANTIC RAINFOREST, AFTER ALL.

THE CATTLE-STOMPED HILLS NEVER LET THE WATER COME INSIDE THE EARTH.

RAIN FLOWED QUICKLY DOWN THE NAKED HILLS
AND INTO THE RIVER.

IT HAD BEEN CALLED THE
"CLEAR RIVER" BEFORE
THE INVADERS CAME.

THE RIVER ROSE AND ROSE COMPLETELY OVER EACH ROOF OF THE TOWN.

A COUSIN ASKED, "SOME PEOPLE ARE SAYING IT WAS BECAUSE
OF THE EUCALYPTUS TREES DESTROYING THE EARTH. WHAT DO YOU THINK?"



MY FAVORITE COUSIN PIU, TOOK ME ALL AROUND THE HILLS TO MEET SINGERS AND MUSICIANS WHO WERE EXPERIMENTING AND PLAYING.

MANY WERE LIKE HIM, OF AFRICAN DESCENT.

NOW, THE DESCENDANTS OF THE PORTUGUESE IN TOWN LINE UP IN THE MAIN PLAZA
AND WEAR USA RODEO STYLE CLOTHING:

BLUE JEANS, COWBOY BOOTS, WHITE SHIRT, RIBBON TIE OR BANDANA AND A COWBOY HAT.

THEY DANCE AND SING "COUNTRY", PIU DIED A LONG TIME AGO.



WHEN I WAS 14 YEARS OLD,

THERE WERE STILL PEOPLE ALIVE WHO HAD BEEN ENSLAVED

SINCE SHE WAS FREE,

ONE WOMAN REFUSED TO SPEAK TO ANY WHITE PEOPLE.



ONCE RETURNING FROM A SWIM IN THE WATERFALL, WE SAW ONE MONKEY.

I PLEADED WITH MY GOSSIPY
COUSIN TO PLEASE NOT TELL
ANYONE.

SO IT WOULD NOT BE HUNTED.

WE ARRIVED IN TOWN AND HE QUICKLY TOLD EVERYONE....



THE ATLANTIC RAINFOREST WAS CUT

FOR COFFEE.

THEY SAY THAT THE EARTH THEN BECAME "WEAK".

SO CATTLE REPLACED THE COFFEE.

CATTLE CAME FROM AFRICAN SAVANNAS WITH SEEDS OF FAST - GROWING SHRUBS

THAT LIKED TO GROW QUICKLY AFTER A FIRE.

THEY LIGHT MANY FIRES TO "CLEAN" THE LAND HERE.

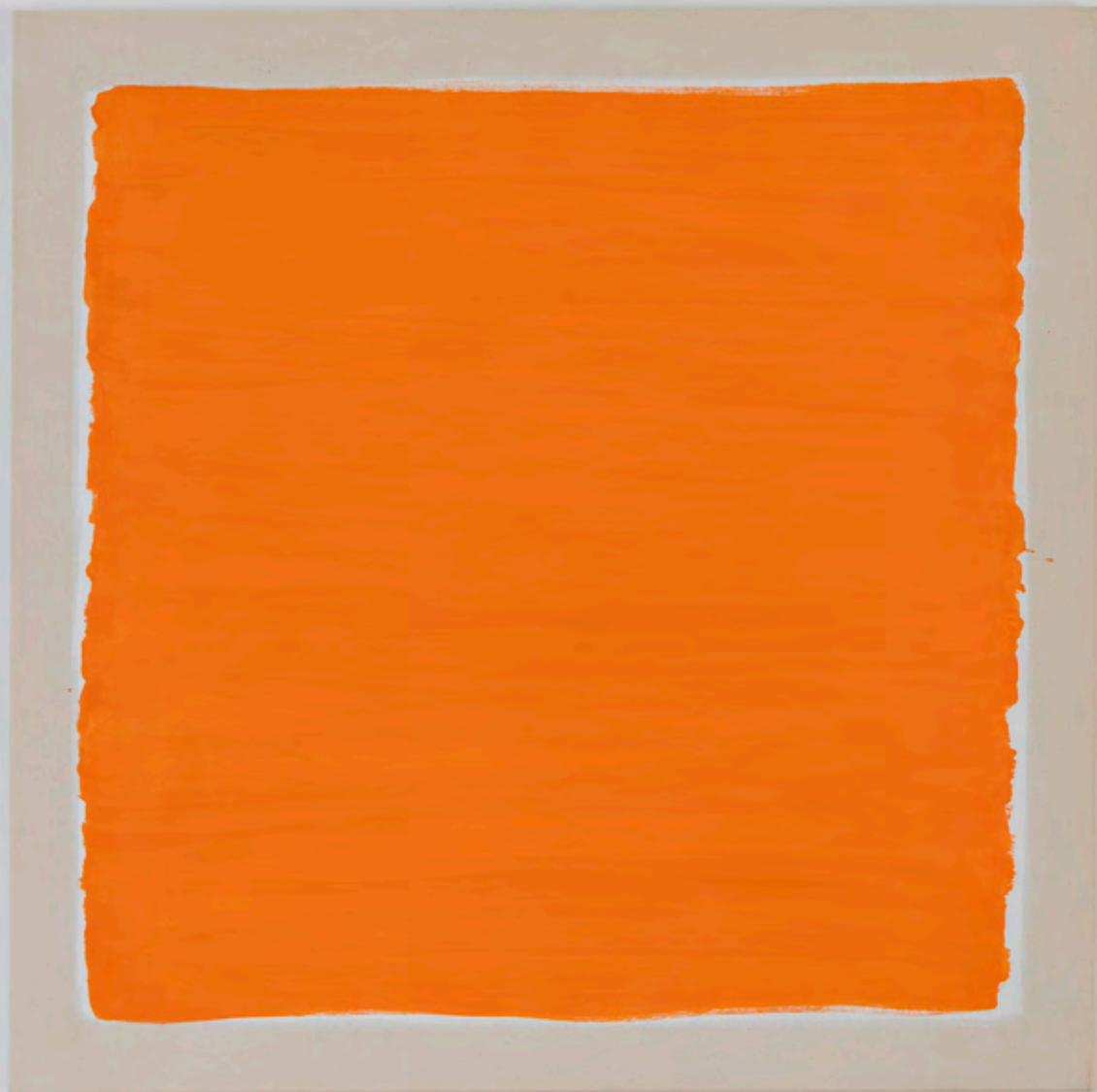
THE SPIKY LEAVES OF THE SHRUBS RIPPED THE BELLIES OF THE COWS WHEN THEY ATE IT.

THE CATTLE ECONOMY COLLAPSED.

EUCALYPTUS TREES WERE PLANTED. THEY SUCK THE SOIL DRY. THEN THEY ARE MADE INTO TOILET PAPER.

NO BIRDS PAUSE AMONG THESE BRANCHES.





MY MOTHER'S FATHER BOUGHT A BOLT OF PUMPKIN - ORANGE CLOTH.

HER MOTHER MADE THE SAME DRESSES FOR ALL THE GIRLS AND THEY WORE

INTO TOWN W BRIGHT
PUMPKIN - ORANGE, MY MOTHER WAS
EMBARRASSED

BECAUSE SHE SAID THEY LOOKED LIKE CAIRIKAS ("THICKS").

MICHEL REIN BRUSSELS

Maria Thereza Alves, Farah Atassi, Maja Bajevic, Jean-Pierre Bertrand, A.K. Burns, Jordi Colomer, Abigail DeVille, Jimmie Durham, Didier Fiúza Faustino, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Dora Garcia, Mathew Hale, Christian Hidaka, Jean-Charles Hue, Armand Jalut, Didier Marcel, Stefan Nikolaev, ORLAN, Dan Perjovschi, Elisa Pône, Mark Raidpere, Enrique Ramírez, Michael Riedel, Edgar Sarin, Anne-Marie Schneider, Franck Scurti, Allan Sekula, Luca Vitone, Sophie Whettnall, Raphaël Zarka

MARIA THEREZA ALVES

The Flood

23.11 – 23.12.2017



The Flood, 2013
painting watercolour on paper
32 x 24 cm / frame: 29,8 x 37,8 x 3,5 cm

The Flood

Watercolor paintings, text, objects and a photograph.

A flood devastated a small town in Brazil and Alves traces the man-made actions throughout colonial history until the present which caused this destruction. The cattle-stomped hills deliberately denuded of the rainforest – how can we love this injured land?

Maria Thereza Alves, a Brazilian artist living in Europe, researches social and cultural phenomena. Alves focuses on concepts that question social circumstances; concerning what we think we know, who we think we are and to look instead at where and how we actually are at this time.

Maria Thereza Alves
November 2017

THE VERA LIST CENTER FOR ART AND POLITICS, 2016-2018, prize was awarded to Maria Thereza Alves in New York City on November 3rd 2017.

Maria Thereza has recently exhibited in the Paris Triennial, Guangzhou Triennial, (d)OCUMENTA 13 in Kassel, Sao Paulo Biennial, Taipei Biennial, Manifesta in Trento, Prague Biennial, Athens Biennial and Lyon Biennial where she received the Prix de la Francophonie. In 2015 she participated to Art Dubai and set up a major solo exhibition in the Centre Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC), Seville, Spain.





Other selected exhibits:

Museo Tamayo in Mexico City Fondazione Sandretto in Torino, Berlin Film Festival, Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol, Kunsthalle in Basel, San Francisco Art Institute, Michel Rein Gallery in Paris, NBK in Berlin, Musée Portuaire in Dunkirk, Nikolaj in Copenhagen, Liverpool Biennale, Palais de Tokyo in Paris, Culturegeest in Lisbon, RAM in Roma, Werkleitz Biennale, Gallery 101 in Montreal, BueroFriedrich in Berlin, Villa Medici in Rome, TaideMuseo in Pori, Museum in Progress in Vienna, Insite in Tijuana and San Diego, Kunstwerkt in Munich, Steirischer Herbst in Graz, Boxx in Brussels, Beursschouwburg in Brussels, Central Space Gallery in London, New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, Temistocles 44 in Mexico City, Casa del Lago in Mexico City, La Estacion Gallery in Cuernavaca, Bialal de Habana, and Kenkeleba House in New York.





For further information, please contact : Patrick Vanbellinghen, director
contact.brussels@michelrein.com

New opening hours of the gallery : Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm and by appointment




ARTWORK LIST

INV Nbr	PICTURE	TITLE
ALVE17112		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood</i> , 2017 painted wood, metal pedestal 38,58 x 16,54 x 5,91 in (Table: 36,42 x 16,54 x 5,91 in , Boat: 2,17 x 12 x 2,17 in) Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17094		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood</i> , 2013 Painting watercolour on paper 18 x 23,2 cm / 7,09 x 9,13 in Frame: 25 x 30 x 3,5 cm / 9,84 x 11,81 x 1,38 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17093		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood</i> , 2013 Painting watercolour on paper 24 x 32 cm / 9,45 x 12,6 in Frame: 29,8 x 37,8 x 3,5 cm / 11,73 x 14,88 x 1,38 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17096		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood</i> , 2013 Painting watercolour on paper 24 x 32 cm / 9,45 x 12,6 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>


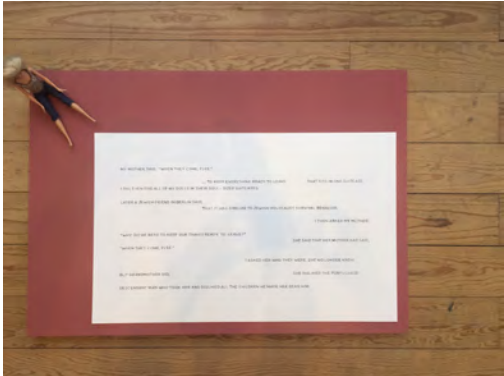


ARTWORK LIST

INV Nbr	PICTURE	TITLE
ALVE17102		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood</i>, 2017 Watercolour on paper, wooden frame, glass 50 x 65 cm / 19,69 x 25,59 in Frame: 56 x 71 x 3,5 cm / 22,05 x 27,95 x 1,46 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17098		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood</i>, 2013 Painting watercolour on paper 24 x 32 cm / 9,45 x 12,6 in Frame: 29,8 x 37,8 x 3,5 cm / 11,73 x 14,88 x 1,38 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17110		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood (After the cattle economy...)</i>, 2017 Stretched textile, acrylic on paper canvas: 100 x 100 cm text: 50 x 50 cm /canvas: 39,37 x 39,37 in text: 19,69x19,69 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17111		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood (My mother's father brought a bolt of pumpkin...)</i>, 2017 Acrylic on canvas, Acrylic on paper canvas: 100 x 100 cm text: 50 x 50 cm /Canvas: 39,37 x 39,37 in Text: 19,69x19,69 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>

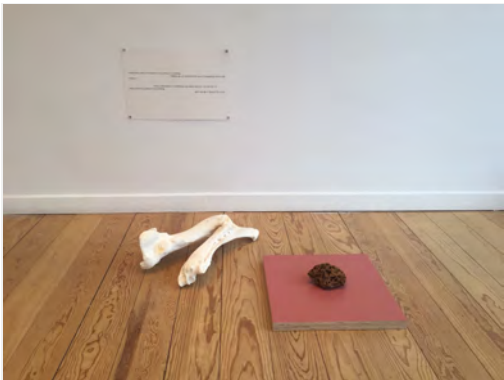


ARTWORK LIST

INV Nbr	PICTURE	TITLE
ALVE17100		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood (one returning from a swim...)</i>, 2017 Watercolour and acrylic on paper, wooden frame, glass 2 x (50 x 65) cm / 2 x (19,69 x 25,59) in Frame: 56 x 71 x 3,7 cm / 22,05 x 27,95 x 1,46 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17109		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood (I inherited from my mother's family...)</i>, 2017 Acrylic on paper, copper, mother-of-pearl, steel, painted wood, wood, glass text: 19,68 x 25,59 in, showcase : 50,20x18,11x12,20 in, pot: 9,84x17,71x13,78 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17103		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood (It rained, it had been the atlantic rainforest...)</i>, 2017 Watercolour and acrylic on paper, wooden frame, glass 2 x (50 x 65) cm / 2 x (19,69 x 25,59) in Frame: 56 x 71 x 3,5 cm / 22,05 x 27,95 x 1,38 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>



ARTWORK LIST

INV Nbr	PICTURE	TITLE
ALVE17104		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood (My favorite cousin, Piu...)</i>, 2017 Watercolour and acrylic on paper, wooden frame, glass w : 50 x 71 cm t : 50 x 65 cm/ w :19,69 x 27,95 in t : 19,69 x 25,6 in Frame: 56 x 77 x 3,5 cm / 22,05 x 30,31 x 1,38 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17113		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood (My mother said...)</i>, 2017 painted wood acrylic on paper, Barbie doll 7,87 x 39,37 x 27,56 in Wood: 1,18 x 39,37 x 27,56 in Text : 19,69 x 31,50 in Barbie: 6,30 x 7,48 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17107		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood (Now it is illegal to cut the atlantic rain forest...)</i>, 2017 Digital print on Dibond gold (butlerfinish) 2x (50 x 65 cm) / 2x(19,69 x 25,59 in) Edition of 3 ex + 2 AP Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17114		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood (She mated with jaguar...)</i>, 2017 Painted wood , acrylic on paper, wooden jaguar 3,15 x 39,37 x 27,56 in Wood : 1,18 x 39,37 x 27,56 in Text : 19,69 x 31,50 in Jaguar: 2,17 x 6,30 i Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>

ARTWORK LIST

INV Nbr	PICTURE	TITLE
ALVE17108		<p>Maria Thereza Alves</p> <p><i>The Flood (Termites are attracted to cattle country...)</i>, 2017</p> <p>Acrylic on paper, earth, bone, painted wood</p> <p>text:11,81x17,72 in bone:5,9x18,11x16,54 in Plateform:4,33x15,75x15,75 in</p> <p>Unique artwork</p> <p>Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17099		<p>Maria Thereza Alves</p> <p><i>The Flood (The atlantic rainforest was cut and earth...)</i>, 2016</p> <p>Watercolour and acrylic on paper, wooden frame, glass</p> <p>2 x (60 x 80) cm / 2 x (23,62 x 31,5) in</p> <p>Frame: 66 x 86 x 3,5 cm / 25,98 x 33,86 x 1,38 in</p> <p>Unique artwork</p> <p>Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17101		<p>Maria Thereza Alves</p> <p><i>The Flood (The atlantic rainforest was cut...)</i>, 2017</p> <p>Watercolour and acrylic on paper, wooden frame, glass</p> <p>2 x (50 x 65) cm / 2 x (19,69 x 25,59) in</p> <p>Frame: 56 x 71 x 3,5 cm / 22,05 x 27,95 x 1,38 in</p> <p>Unique artwork</p> <p>Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>

ARTWORK LIST

INV Nbr	PICTURE	TITLE
ALVE17097		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood (The town was founded by bandeirantes...)</i>, 2013 Watercolour and acrylic on paper, wooden frame, glass 2 x (19 x 24) cm / 2 x (7,48 x 9,45) in Frame: 24 x 29,5 x 3,5 cm / 9,45 x 11,61 x 1,38 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>
ALVE17095		<p>Maria Thereza Alves <i>The Flood (when I was 14 years old...)</i>, 2013 Watercolour and acrylic on paper, wooden frame, glass 19 x 24 cm / 7,48 x 9,45 in Frame: 25 x 30 x 3,5 cm / 9,84 x 11,81 x 1,38 in Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels</p>