

projects+gallery

CHARLIE WOULD... OPENS IN SEPTEMBER AT PROJECTS+GALLERY

(August 2016, St. Louis, MO) -- St. Louis' projects + gallery is pleased to present "Charlie Would...", the U.S. solo debut of Paris-based multidisciplinary artist Charlie le Mindu. Le Mindu is known for pioneering the use of human hair as an artistic medium and combines fashion, performance art and installation in his work. The show will run Sept. 15 to Nov. 19, 2016, and features some of his best-known sculptural works.

"Charlie is one of the most electrifying artists working today," says Susan Barrett, founder and president of Barrett Barrera Projects. "His pieces challenge us to look at new mediums and redefine what we think of as sculpture."

Born in Bergerac, France and raised in the French wine country of Castelnau-de-Médoc, Charlie le Mindu has lived and worked throughout Europe. His sculptures and performance compositions have been exhibited in numerous institutions including the Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Palais de Tokyo and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Additional projects, including art direction of the storefront windows at Galeries Lafayette Paris and Bordeaux, reflect the regard of both the fashion and art worlds in his dramatic, offbeat design aesthetic.

Le Mindu's artistic practice is influenced by the subcultures of European nightlife and drag performance, while his iconography finds influence in subjects as varied as ancient mythology, fantastical bestiaries, and medieval headdresses. More than just wearable art capable of transforming and extending the human body, within the space of the gallery

his sculptures recall both natural and fantastical imagery.

In 'Charlie Would...' Charlie le Mindu demonstrates the limits of his medium and the limits of traditional definitions of art. Using sculpture and movement, le Mindu coalesces contemporary culture and our primal selves into creations simultaneously reminiscent of African art and European clubwear. The artist pushes the material boundaries of synthetic and human hair, developing techniques that treat hair much in the same way that fur has been treated and fetishized for its aesthetic and sensual qualities in the larger historical continuum of fashion. Charlie le Mindu is redefining the fetish by reexamining hair not only as a means of personal decoration, but as a material with which we can fashion the self and manifest the imagination.

More than just wearable art capable of transforming and extending the human body, within the space of the gallery Charlie le Mindu's tressed and tufted sculptures recall both natural and fantastical imagery: fluorescent jellyfish float in the darkness, while large winged creatures hover, both ominous and inviting, before the viewer.

Appealing to the artist's subversive personality, influences and oeuvre, 'Charlie Would...' asks us to consider, what else would Charlie do?

"Charlie Would..." is made possible with generous support from Hair-Dreams and The Dominic Michael Salon. Barrett Barrera Projects is the artistic representative for Charlie le Mindu.



(Above) CHARLIE WOULD... opens September 15, 2016, 5 - 8 PM.

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ABOUT PROJECTS+GALLERY

Specializing in art, culture and contemporary fashion, projects+gallery features regional, national, and international artists working in a variety of mediums. The gallery is a subsidiary of Barrett Barrera Projects, a St. Louis-based company founded by Susan Barrett in 2014 that is dedicated to effective and innovative representation for contemporary artists such as Charlie le Mindu, Fantich & Young, Stephane Margolis, Hideki Seo and Bill Smith and offers a variety of art consultation services.



For more information and to arrange interviews, contact:

Amanda Galloway
amanda@amandacookpr.com
314.598.0544

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ARTIST BIO

Charlie le Mindu is a Paris-based visual artist who has pioneered the use of human hair, among other nontraditional materials, to amalgamate the worlds of fashion, performance art, sculpture and installation.

Charlie le Mindu's artistic practice is influenced by the iconography and spirit of the expressive spheres of European nightlife, drag performance and performance art to create installations and innovative artistic experiences that are in dialogue with the contemporary social and cultural milieu, and also the larger historical continuum of fashion and art. By metamorphosing the wearer, le Mindu establishes his own aesthetic that references ancient mythology, fantastical bestiaries and most importantly, his very own transgressive imagination.

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and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Additional projects, including art direction of the storefront windows at Galeries Lafayette Paris and Bordeaux, reflect the regard of the fashion and art world for his dramatic, offbeat design aesthetic.

Le Mindu's current movement towards performance transforms the contemporary art institution, presenting performances that exist in a space between the worlds of fashion and art. The artist, a polymath in the truest sense, combines his talents in music, video, dance and design to compose a beautiful, visceral otherworld that draws upon the clever reverie and penetrating psychology of Surrealism. References to primitive art, anatomical metonymy and ethereal physical expressions in his performance work recall the art of seminal Surrealists including Salvador Dali and René Magritte, while the throbbing dance music, strobe lights and glitter thrust the viewer into the fresh-faced, campy European club scene.



(Above) Charlie Le Mindu with work from his "Gold Sabah" Collection, A/W 2013.

(Below) Pink Mohawk from Charlie Le Mindu's "Stronger" Collection, S/S 2014. Photo: Inés Dieleman.

SELECT MEDIA COVERAGE

2016

["Charlie Le Mindu Sets 'Charliewood' Revue."](#) *Women's Wear Daily*

["Haute Coiffure Designer Creates Hair Amusement Park in Paris."](#) *Modern Salon Magazine*

2015

["Charlie Le Mindu Fall-Winter 2015-2016."](#) *Crash Magazine*

2014

["Interview: Charlie Le Mindu."](#) *Schön! Magazine*

2013

["Elsewhere in Paris...Lady Gaga's Favourite Freaky Milliner Charlie Le Mindu Shows Yet Another Bizarre Catwalk Collection."](#) *Daily Mail*

2012

["Step by Step with Charlie Le Mindu."](#) *Interview Magazine*

2010

["Charlie Le Mindu."](#) *VOGUE UK*

