

GUGGENHEIM BILBAO

Press release



The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao presents on October 31, 2019

Jesse Jones: Tremble Tremble

Jesse Jones: Tremble Tremble

- Dates: October 31–March 1, 2020
- Curator: Manuel Cirauqui
- Film & Video gallery (103)

From October 31 to March 1, 2020, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao presents the exhibition *Jesse Jones: Tremble Tremble* as part of the 2019 programming of the Film & Video gallery, a space where the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao presents referential works of video art and video installation, and explores the moving image as a key artistic language of our time.

This is an ambitious installation by the artist Jesse Jones (Dublin, 1978) which weaves together film, sculpture, live actions, and sound. The core of the work shows images of a female giantess witch embodying female power and the power of supernatural forces on two giant video screens. This figure proclaims a new legal order, called *In Utera Gigantae*, based on the shamanic power of women, invalidating any other law or government.

Tremble Tremble was originally created in 2017 for the Irish pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale and reflects a time of intense debates on the abortion law in Ireland. At the same time, the work functions as a portrait of a timeless archetype beyond national or ethnic identification. The powerful witch in the video, played by the Irish actress Olwen Fouéré, can therefore be perceived as a disruptive feminist paradigm which has the potential to transform reality and reveals witchcraft to be an emancipating tool for women.

Jesse Jones has thoroughly researched the ritual practices and mythologies associated with witchcraft by gathering testimonials in different settings and European countries with the goal of exploring the relationship between feminism and capitalism and the possibility of female power in the world. “I’ve been thinking about what was the context in which women’s bodies have been controlled by the state, and it was very important to see that in the context of the history of the prosecution of the witches.”

The installation *Tremble Tremble* also includes a live performance component which occurs simultaneously with the video screening in the exhibition space: every so often, an assistant spreads out a curtain across the room and draws a circle on a black wall. The work is completed with three sculptures and a series of items displayed in glass cabinets in the anteroom of the exhibition which serve as key references within the artist’s project.

Jesse Jones has specifically adapted her work to different institutions in Europe and Asia, bearing in mind the ethnography of each place. For the presentation in Bilbao, Jones inquired into the history and rites of witchcraft in the Basque Country, with special attention to the traditional candle of the dead or *argizaiola*, which is still used in some villages. Along with the theoretician and researcher Silvia Federici, Jones

travelled around to some of the historical sites, caves, archives, and museums in the Basque Country and Navarra and learned the history of the Holy Inquisition's witch hunts in northern Spain. Thus, some of the items displayed in the cabinets reveal the constant presence of esoteric rites and practices in Gipuzkoa and Navarra, providing a new backdrop to the installation as a whole.

Jesse Jones. Biography

Born in Dublin in 1978, Jesse Jones's works combine film or video with sound, sculpture, and performance in an effort to explore topics such as the relationship between feminism and capitalism, the autonomy of women's bodies, and the possibility of female power in the world.

In addition to her representation at the Irish Pavilion at the 2017 Venice Biennale, Jesse Jones has also exhibited different versions of *Tremble Tremble* in Europe and Asia, including the Talbot Rice Gallery in Edinburgh; the Institute of Contemporary Arts, LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore; and the Project Arts Centre of Dublin. The artist's works have been the subject of individual exhibitions in such prominent institutions as Artangel, London; The Hugh Lane, Dublin; Artsonje Centre, Seoul; Londonberry and Spike Island, Bristol.

Tremble Tremble was originally commissioned by Tessa Giblin and Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council of Ireland for the Pavilion of Ireland at the 57th Venice Biennale. Sound design and composition by Susan Stenger. Production management and AV programming by Aaron Kelly.

Encounters with artists: Jesse Jones (October 31 at 6:30 pm)

Jesse Jones will speak with Manuel Cirauqui, curator of the Film & Video programming and curator at the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, on the project *Tremble Tremble*, ritual practices in the Basque Country, and this work's relationship with current debates on gender politics. The encounter will be on October 31 at 6:30 pm at the Auditorium of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. The talk will be followed by a colloquium with the audience.

Film & Video (gallery 103)

The Film & Video gallery features a program of exhibitions exclusively devoted to contemporary practices of the moving image, video art, and film-based media installation. Since it opened in 2016, this space has presented work by unique artists such as Christian Marclay, Ragnar Kjartanson, Rineke Dijkstra, Kimsooja, Shahzia Sikander, Sam-Taylor Johnson, Fiona Tan, Ken Jacobs, Amie Siegel, Pierre Huyghe, Michael Snow, Javier Téllez, and Diana Thater. In 2019, its program presented the works of Allora & Calzadilla and Jasper Just.

Cover image:

Jesse Jones

Tremble Tremble, 2017

Film, sculpture, moving curtain, sound and light scenography

Variable dimensions

Courtesy of the artist

© Jesse Jones

For more information:

Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

Marketing and Communications Department

Tel: +34 944 359 008

media@guggenheim-bilbao.eus

www.guggenheim-bilbao.eus

All information about the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao is available at www.guggenheim-bilbao.eus (press room).

Press Images for
Jesse Jones Tremble, Tremble
Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

Online Photo Service for Press Images

At the press area (prensa.guggenheim-bilbao.es/en) you can register and download high resolution images and videos featuring the exhibitions and the building. Sign in to get access. If you are already a user, log in here (you need your username and password).

For further information, please contact the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao Press Department: tel. +34 944 359 008 and email: media@guggenheim-bilbao.eus

Jesse Jones

Tremble Tremble, 2017

Film, sculpture, moving curtain, sound and light scenography

Variable dimensions

Courtesy of the artist

© Jesse Jones



Jesse Jones

Tremble Tremble, 2017

Film, sculpture, moving curtain, sound and light scenography

Variable dimensions

Courtesy of the artist

© Jesse Jones



Jesse Jones

Tremble Tremble, 2017

Film, sculpture, moving curtain, sound and light scenography

Variable dimensions

View of the installation in the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao

© Jesse Jones

