

Tristan Hoare

# Antoine Wagner

# Maria Callas

EXHIBITION  
8<sup>TH</sup> MAR - 5<sup>TH</sup> APR 2024  
TUES - SAT, 11AM - 6PM

TRISTAN HOARE  
6 FITZROY SQUARE  
LONDON W1T 5DX

# Antoine Wagner

# Maria Callas

8<sup>TH</sup> MAR - 5<sup>TH</sup> APR 2024

Tristan Hoare is delighted to present a solo exhibition of works by multidisciplinary artist Antoine Wagner, in which he showcases a series of photographs capturing the curtains that adorned opera houses graced by Maria Callas throughout her 36-year career, along with a new video, *Where It Starts, It Ends* (2024).

In this new body of work, Wagner explores curtains' integral role in shaping the immersive nature of the operatic spectacle. The role of curtains in opera extends beyond their utilitarian function as stage coverings, as in the operatic context, they serve as dynamic components which punctuate and shape the audience experience. Traditionally employed to conceal and reveal scenes, curtains act as a visual and symbolic threshold, demarcating transitions between acts and creating dramatic pauses. Beyond their visual impact, curtains also play an acoustic role in opera. Acting as absorbers and diffusers of sound, they contribute to the perception of volume and resonance, adding a layer of sonic nuance to the operatic experience.

Guided by the soprano's voice and through his experimentation with scale and orientation, Wagner reveals an abstracted and novel reinterpretation of the woven fabric. The artist's work translates the richness of Callas's voice into visual form, as the velvet folds and undulations serve as a visualisation of her vocal prowess. Wagner's new video work, *Where It Starts, It Ends* (2024, 4k, stereo sound, 5min, loop) invites the audience to an intimate exchange with the sensual velvet fabric.

The traditionally vertical folds of curtains are transformed into horizontal landscapes, creating an ecosystem akin to trees in a forest. These disorienting rotational shifts mirror the vertiginous feeling of stepping onto the stage, thus placing the spectator in the role of the performer, embedded within the forest of curtains.

*Maria Callas* is a celebration of music and opera through the nuanced lens of abstract photography. The exhibition will continue at Fitzroy Square from 8<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024, marking Antoine Wagner's first exhibition with the gallery.

*An opera begins long before the curtain goes up and ends long after it has come down.  
It starts in my imagination, it becomes my life, and it stays part of my life long after I've left the opera house.*

- MARIA CALLAS

## The Artist

**Antoine Wagner** is a French-American contemporary artist and film director who works within an array of fields and mediums. His work explores the connectivity between nature, geography, mythology and the sublime, as well as the themes of identity, resurrection and redemption. Capturing the familiar in unfamiliar ways, Wagner's multifaceted practice has the ability to deeply engage the viewer and stretch the limits of their existing ideas on artistic and geographical bounds.

Wagner's decision to focus on the subject of Maria Callas stems from a combination of personal interest, artistic inspiration, and a desire to explore the symbiosis of opera and visual art. Maria Callas is widely regarded as one of the greatest opera singers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, known for her dramatic interpretations and vocal prowess. The artist is drawn to her as a muse due to the compelling and emotive nature of her performances and her timeless presence in front of and behind the curtain. Exploring her career through visual art provides an opportunity to engage with the broader cultural and historical context of opera. Ultimately, Maria Callas provides a rich and multifaceted subject through which Wagner can explore the interconnection of opera, identity, and visual expression.

## The Gallery

Founded in 2009, **Tristan Hoare** is a multi-layered gallery focusing on young and established artists working in a variety of mediums. African photography, glass, textile art, painting and drawing are all areas of interest, as well as a developing passion for ceramics.

Each year we curate an ambitious exhibition with an overarching theme. *Geometrica* (2018), *Botanica* (2019), *Folds* (2021), *The Conference of the Birds* (2022) and *Paper* (2023) enabled us to collaborate with multiple artists and galleries, combining work from BC to the present day. Exhibitions are executed with the intention of telling a story and connecting with both seasoned collectors and people less familiar with the art world.

The gallery is located in a Grade I listed Georgian townhouse in Fitzroy Square.

**TRISTAN HOARE**

6 Fitzroy Square  
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Tuesday - Saturday  
11am - 6pm

**PRESS ENQUIRIES**

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