

Akim Monet Fine Arts, LLC



Akim MONET (b. 1968)

Black Nike

Slate-based composite
with brushed stainless-steel plaque and laser cut inscription
numbered VDS-xxxx-BC

h. 20 ⁷/₈ in (h. 53 cm)

2017

Edition of 25

Produced in collaboration with Ateliers d'art de la Réunion des musées nationaux - Grand-Palais
Each casting bears the round marking "MOULAGE MUSEE DU LOUVRE" inscribed around the
logo of the Réunion des musées nationaux

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AUTHENTICATION

A certificate of authenticity signed by Akim Monet, and marked with a holographic number and embossed dry seal accompanies each work

EXHIBITED

Mythology & Science, Fall 2017 & Spring 2018, Akim Monet Side by Side Gallery, Berlin
Disruptive selection, Fall 2019, Popcorn Gallery Akim Monet Fine Arts, Los Angeles

NOTES



From a historical perspective, starting from when appeared the **Nike of Delos** (6th century BC) -the first known iteration of a winged female figure, until the creation of one of the most celebrated sculptures of all times, the **Winged Victory of Samothrace** (2nd century BC), lived some of the most influential thinkers in western culture.

Announced by **Nike**, the Greek goddess of strength, speed, and victory, who flying around battlefields rewarded the victors with glory and fame, Pythagoras, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle constituted an almost unbroken chain that lasted less than 300 years.

It is befitting therefore, that the **Winged Victory of Samothrace** is presented here once again as the herald of the impending transformations of our species.

As pointed out by the art historian H. W. Janson, Nike creates a deliberate relationship to the imaginary space around the goddess - all the more so because much like Rodin's iconic **Homme qui marche**, she is headless -allowing for the viewer to complete the picture through the power of the imagination.

Taking measure of the gravitas of the present moment, Akim Monet, in collaboration with the **Ateliers d'art de la Réunion des musées nationaux - Grand-Palais** (formerly **Les Ateliers de Moulage du Louvre**), here present the Louvre **Nike** in the form of a stone-based composite casting, using slate, the finest grained foliated metamorphic rock as the main component.

As the name of this type of material implies, it appears through a transformative process. Deep beneath the Earth's surface, subjected to high temperatures and the great pressure of the rock layers above, it can form from tectonic processes such as continental collisions, which cause horizontal pressure, friction and distortion. It is also formed when rock is heated up by the intrusion of hot molten rock (magma) from the Earth's interior.



Metaphorically therefore, in addition to the notion of transformation, slate conjures the idea of 'coming from within' the entrails of mother-Earth; it is a product of the original matrix. In regards to its color, black is the darkest color, resulting from the absence or complete absorption of light. In this way, it is evocative of black holes, which may have been the birthplace of the universe. So, although ominous at times, the color black also represents strength, seriousness, power, and authority. Black is a formal, elegant, and prestigious color. The color black can evoke strong emotions and it can also be overwhelming - a bit like the feeling one can derive when contemplating the extraordinary period in our evolution that we are just entering...

The making of the Black Nike

Within the context of the recent € 5 million conservation treatment of the Musée du Louvre *Winged Victory of Samothrace*, the original marble sculpture was digitally scanned to a level of accuracy sufficient to distinguish the original tooling traces. From this high definition scan, a 3D print was produced. The **Ateliers d'art de la Réunion des musées nationaux - Grand-Palais** created a mold from the 3D print, and from this they produced a gesso cast, which was then painstakingly re-worked by hand, in order to match the restored marble masterpiece. From this reworked gesso, a highly accurate mold was produced. It is this that is used to produce the present slate-based composite castings.



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