

MORGANE ELY IT'S RAINING ON PROM NIGHT

September 5th — October 26th 2024

Opening September 5th from 6 to 9 pm.

« Suki from *Fast & Furious*, *Twilight*, *The Kardashians*, *Britney Spears*, *Christina Aguilera*: all these figures reflect a femininity so excessive that they disrupt the conventions to which they conform. Treating them with the traditional printmaking techniques she learned in Japan, Morgane Ely gives popular imagery a preciousness and historical value. » — Elora Weill-Engerer

PARIS-B is delighted to welcome artist Morgane Ely to its PB Project space for her first solo show, entitled « It's Raining on Prom Night ».

Pop-culture, famous icons, drama... Morgane Ely's work is made up of a myriad of images gleaned from films and networks, the ones that capture your attention, imprint themselves on your retinas and trigger an immediate emotion. A dizzying contemporary iconography far removed from the themes that usually constitute the technique used by the artist.

Formed in printmaking and woodcutting in Tokyo, Morgane Ely has never ceased to challenge this codified artistic practice and its traditional subjects. As if to thumb her nose at the omnipresence of the male gaze, she uses this long and tedious technique (at least a month is needed to design a work) to serve the feminine, glam, heightened emotions and the vulgar in its original sense (from the latin *vulgāris*, what relates to the crowd, which belongs to everyone).

By manually engraving her plywood board, the artist reverses the temporality of her subjects. The image goes from the notion of instant consumption, of immediate distribution, to the status of a unique piece, an object destined to be anchored in a space. The pixel becomes an asperity, the photographic blur an artisan's skill. It's as if the matrix obtained by the artist became the original of these images imprinted in our memories since adolescence.

« It's Raining on Prom Night » is an exhibition that feels like the end of a prom. It's a place whose godmothers are the iconic Gabriella from *High School Musical*, Sandy from *Grease*, or Lolita from *Mean Girls*. Hanging on the gallery's silver walls are a multitude of portraits: cheerleaders in the middle of a fall, the crowning of a Miss America, or one of the most famous break-ups of the 2000s in the film 'Legally Blonde'. Far from dragging us into the same predicament as their modern heroines, these works give us instead the strength to face the day, reminding us, like Jessica Alba in one of her sitcoms, that there's nothing a pot of ice cream on the sofa won't fix in the end.



So you're breaking up with me because I'm too blonde ?, 2024, engraving on inked wood, 70 x 70 cm. Courtesy PARIS-B.



Morgane Ely was born in 1995 in Hayange, Lorraine, France. After graduating from the Beaux-Arts de Nancy, then the Beaux-Arts de Paris, where she was introduced to screen printing, she spent 6 months at the Musashino Art University in Tokyo, where she was trained in printmaking and wood engraving by masters Akira Suzuki and Tsuyoshi Hirai. In 2021, she won the 42nd Prix du Prestige Takifuji and the Prix de la gravure at the Biennale de Sarcelles, then in 2022 the Prix Rose Taupin - Dora Bianka, and finally the Prix Villa Noailles at the latest Révélations Emerige. After a residency at Villa Noailles, she will have a solo exhibition at the Ancien Evêché de Toulon in 2025. She lives and works in Paris.

To go further :

Culturbox l'émission, France.tv : [« Génération culturebox - Morgane Ely, plasticienne »](#)

Beaux Arts : [« Morgane Ely, graveuse pop et subversive »](#)

Le Quotidien de l'art : [« Morgane Ely lauréate de la Villa Noailles Emerige »](#)



Susan Akin, Miss America 1986 (detail), 2024, engraving on inked wood, 67 x 100 cm. Courtesy de l'artiste et PARIS-B