



CHÂTEAU LA COSTE



## Siobhán Hapaska

24 February - 29 March

Château La Coste is pleased to present both a permanent installation and an exhibition of recent work by Irish-Iranian artist, Siobhán Hapaska. Born in 1963, Hapaska has developed a sculptural practice and distinct voice that draws on a dazzling array of materials and forms to reconsider the role of the object in contemporary sculpture. Each loaded with history and multiple readings, these materials are combined in ways that are often surprising. The display in the Old Wine Storehouse gallery at Château La Coste includes biomorphic forms in concrete cloth reaching towards one another, as if trying to touch; glossy fibreglass apples that are constricted by snakeskin-veneered metal channels; a sanctuary lamp that floods the room with purple light, rotating in a perpetual state of crisis. Here we see how Hapaska's work often employs two forms in states of conflict, distress, desire or compassion. In some cases such as the snakeskin and the apple, the references are clear, in this case biblical. However, the choice of forms, materials and fabrication remain mysterious, and the message thus remains unresolved.

Elsewhere, the 'concrete cloth' employs the recent innovation of concrete-infused canvas that was developed for the speedy construction of emergency dwellings. Its use by Hapaska accentuates the biomorphic nature of her work but also speaks to the very contemporary concerns regarding housing for refugees and those suffering the effects of natural disasters.

Alongside this exhibition, Château La Coste will inaugurate a large-scale permanent installation by Siobhán Hapaska, entitled 'Intifada', situated in the heart of an olive grove next to Frank Gehry's music pavilion; Adapted from previous works displayed at the Boijmans Museum in the Netherlands and Art Basel Hong Kong Encounters 2015, it takes the form of three large, open cubes made of anodized aluminum. Each cube is 3 meters square. Shackled horizontally within each is an uprooted olive tree, connected to a vibrating motor. The unsettling result is a spectacular, intimidating, flying forest, floating but trapped, shaking continually in a state of endurance and defiance, as though nature itself is curtailed against its will by mechanics.

For Hapaska olive trees have been at the heart of human civilization for over 6,000 years, a symbol of abundance, peace and goodwill. It is as pertinent a symbol as ever in the context of current, ferocious and seemingly intractable conflict.

Intifada is an Arabic word that literally means, "shaking off," but is now generally translated as rebellion or resistance. This installation seeks to convey a spirit of uprising, not in an obvious political sense but as a 'shaking off' of that which limits the human potential.

## Press Contact

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Listing Name

Siobhán Hapaska

Dates 24th February - 29th March

Opening Hours 12pm - 5pm, Mon - Sun

Website [www.chateau-la-coste.com](http://www.chateau-la-coste.com)

Instagram [@chateaulacoste](https://www.instagram.com/chateaulacoste) [#SiobhanHapaska](https://www.instagram.com/SiobhanHapaska)

## About Siobhán Hapaska

Current and forthcoming exhibitions include Kerlin Gallery; John Hansard Gallery, University of Southampton (December 2018 – Spring 2019) & Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2019). Recent solo exhibitions include Kerlin Gallery (2016–17); Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2014–15); Magasin 3, Stockholm (2013), Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York (2010) and Camden Arts Centre, London (2007). Recent group exhibitions include Dreamers Awake, White Cube Bermondsey, London; Disobedient Bodies, curated by JW Anderson, The Hepworth Wakefield, UK (2017); The Mobility of Facts, Bloomberg SPACE, London (2016); Azerbaijan Pavilion, 56th Venice Biennale (2015); British Sculpture, Royal Academy, London (2010); The British Art Show 6 (2005–06); the Irish Pavilion, 49th Venice Biennale (2001); a three-person exhibition with Charles Long and Ernesto Neto, Magasin 3, Stockholm and Documenta X (1997). Hapaska's work is in many major institutional collections including The Boijmans, The TATE, The Irish Museum of Modern Art, The Boston Museum of Fine Arts and The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

## About Château la Coste

Situated in the midst of Provence between the historical city of Aix-En-Provence and the Luberon National Park, Château La Coste is a vineyard where Wine, Art & Architecture live in harmony. Since it opened to the public in 2011, the domain allows you to discover 30 major works of contemporary art installed permanently in the open air and 3 gallery spaces, offering you a unique experience at the heart of its 500-acre, biodynamic vineyard. Artists and architects were invited to visit the domain and discover the beauty of Provence. In turn, they were encouraged to choose a place in the landscape that spoke directly to them and were given the freedom to create a work that would live there. Château La Coste will continue to evolve as new projects and installations are developed.