



Musée des Augustins

Thomas Houseago



Thomas Houseago *Quake Mask*, 2008 Courtesy the Artist and Xavier Hufkens, Brussels Photography, Fredrik Nilsen, Los Angeles

Born 1972 in Leeds, United-Kingdom, lives and works in Los Angeles. Trained at Saint Martin's School of Art in London and at the "Ateliers" in Amsterdam, Thomas Houseago is a robust sculptor, like his often monumental works in wood, bronze and plaster, which are powerful and expressive portraits of figures whose forms and postures are often unexpected. Houseago conceives his sculptures specifically for their host spaces, which they fill with a primal energy, their textures and the marks of their creative process – engraving, casting, drips – establishing an immediate dialogue with beholders. The artist is radical in his conservatism, overturning our contemporary notions of sculpture with works that embrace both history and the immediacy of the artist's hand. Having visited the spaces that will host his work in Toulouse, for the Printemps has produced new pieces: a series of sculptures echoing the gargoyles in the cloister of the Musée des Augustins, and a big totemic figure for the DRAC courtyard.