

“Mood Machines” by Chellis Baird at RX&Slag in Paris



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View of the exhibition "Mood Machines" by Chellis Baird © Courtesy RX&Slag

What things would look like from the inside... a tangled web... a complex network... a portrait of our sublime emotional entanglements. Ultimately, a well-kept secret... even from ourselves! “Mood Machines” is the first solo exhibition by American artist Chellis Baird at RX&Slag in Paris. On view until August 2, it is the result of her artistic residency at the Cité internationale des Arts in Paris... an Ariadne's thread that leads us to explore the labyrinth of our feelings... intimately linked to the work.

From fashion to canvas... dressing the body as the medium. From her career as a stylist, Chellis Baird has retained a sense of material and textures... but also that of volume and couture. Her works have a sculptural presence... an inhabited relief that makes shadow and light resonate... breathe colors. And they have their importance! Everything could be monochrome but nothing really is... like an oversized tweed that changes appearance depending on the point of view from which we look at it... like a change of mood. The exterior appearance echoes the interior convolutions. They have a dark side and a light side. Don't stay static! Move! Get closer and move away... go from left to right then back... like dance steps. Perception and emotion are enriched in the subtle movement around these living works... a questioning.



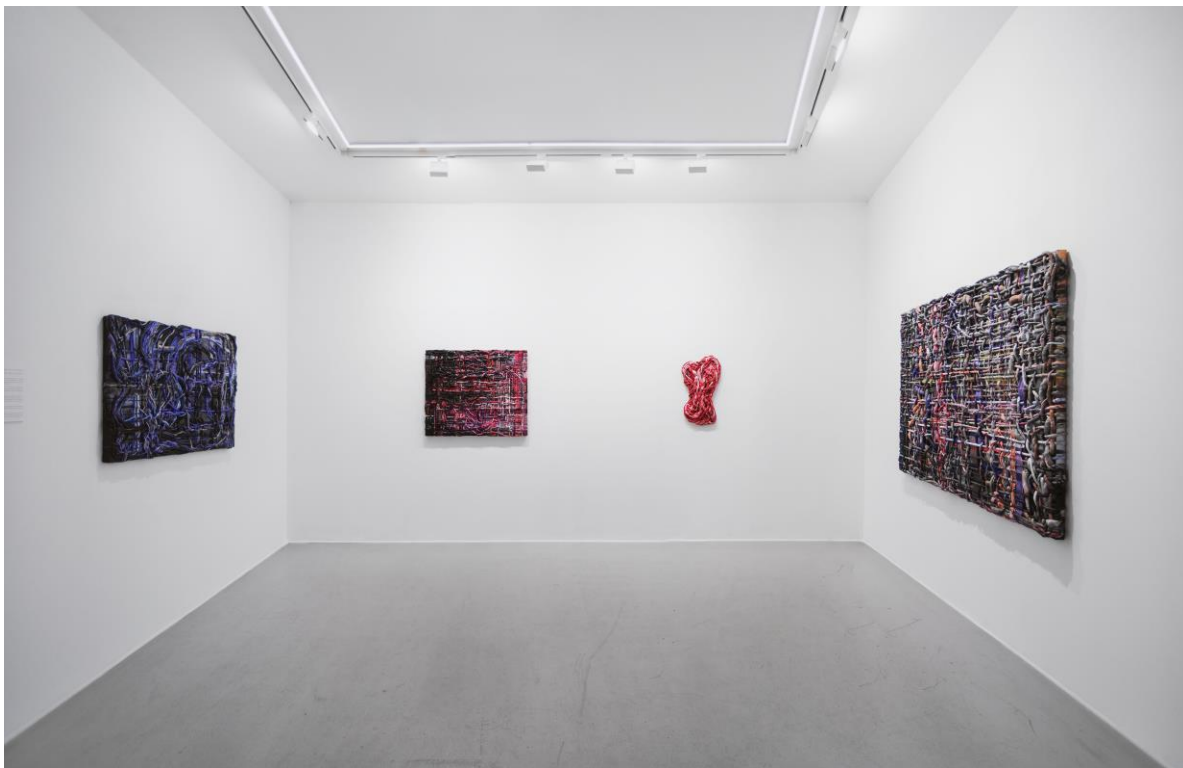
View of the *Mood Machines* exhibition by Chellis Baird © Courtesy RX&Slag

On the white walls, black and red, black and blue... the colors stand out and attract the eye. Red, as sanguine by hatred as by love, occupies a special place in what seems to be the ideal realm of order and chaos... a metaphorical representation of the world. *Mood Machines* (or mood machines) takes us back to our own antagonisms and questions our experiences of the perceived world... our states of consciousness. Are we, ultimately, a machine like any other or, conversely, could a machine feel the same thing as us... the feeling of evil as well as good. In these taut, crossed, intertwined textile ramifications, woven like the vines of an impenetrable jungle... circulates a form of tireless energy. Veins and arteries, nervous system, neural or artificial network, electrical or computer circuit, roots or rhizomes... countless cables that circulate life and information at every moment... quantum entanglements.



View of the *Mood Machines* exhibition by Chellis Baird © Courtesy RX&Slag

These mood machines are not as abstract or isolated as they seem. They provoke and maintain a dialogue between themselves and with the viewer. They are selected pieces of what we are... mechanical and biological... but also sensitive. The visitor can relate to them, connect with them... identify with them as with a part of themselves... that more or less buried state of mind that everyone knows how to recognize at a certain point in their lives... of pain and joy.



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