

HEROES

EXCEPTIONAL CHARITY AUCTION

**AN INITIATIVE BY KAMEL MENNOUR
IN FAVOUR OF THE *IMAGINE* INSTITUTE**

Monday, October 17th, 2016

with

**Blum & Poe, Sadie Coles, David Kordansky Gallery, Galerie kreo
Dominique Lévy, Metro Pictures, neugerriemschneider, Pace Gallery
Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Regen Projects, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac
Van de Weghe and kamel mennour**

« Let's give their childhood back to all our little heroes.
Together let's fight for the disease to be just a distant memory. »
Pr Alain Fischer & Kamel Mennour

The *Imagine* Institute, Kamel Mennour, and Christie's are once again joining forces to defend humanism, openness and creativity by organizing a second charity auction benefitting the *Imagine* Institute, a unique research, training and clinical care center for genetic diseases that affect children and adults.

The funds raised will be invested in research and the development of new treatments for genetic diseases. It is important to remember that the cost of sequencing DNA from a patient and family members in order to establish a genetic diagnosis ranges from €500 to €1,500, depending on the disorder.

Kamel Mennour has been a partner of the *Imagine* Institute since its founding.

In 2014, a monumental installation entitled *3 arcs de néons inclinés à 0°-90°-45°* (Three neon arches at 0, -90 and -45 degree angles) was presented on one of the three gables overlooking *Imagine*'s interior garden, as a charitable offering by its artist François Morellet and Kamel Mennour to support the families, physicians and scientists working together to cure genetic diseases.

The first *Heroes* auction in September 2015, also organized at the initiative of Kamel Mennour with the support of Christie's, raised nearly €3 million for *Imagine*. Thanks to the generosity of bidders and donors, *Imagine* was able to finance the creation of its new Clinical Bioinformatics lab, under the directorship of Antonio Rausell. Other strategic projects were launched and given a boost by this wonderful outpouring of support, including a new model development tool for the CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing method and the entry into the clinical phase of an innovation allowing patients receiving transplants to avoid undergoing chemotherapy (traditionally used to reduce the risk of graft rejection).

This second exceptional charity auction thus builds on these two previous initiatives with the goal of raising funds in an amount that will be decisive for the Institute's future. In order to move forward, *Imagine* needs to strengthen its core facilities, in particular its equipment for the generation, maintenance and characterization of induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell lines, and to speed up the use of its findings in therapy by doubling its clinical trials and the number of enrolled patients.

Drawing inspiration from the tireless efforts of the 850 scientists and clinicians from around the world giving their all to meet the Institute's objectives, this initiative is made possible thanks to the generosity of thirteen international art galleries in Los Angeles, New York, London, Berlin, Zürich, and Paris: Blum & Poe, Sadie Coles, David Kordansky Gallery, Galerie kreO, Dominique Lévy, Metro Pictures, neugerriemschneider, Pace Gallery, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Regen Projects, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Van de Weghe, and kamel mennour; fifteen renowned artists, but also of various other leading figures having agreed to offer unique experiences.

The artworks put to auction will be presented from 11th to 16th of October, at the 28 avenue Matignon, Paris 8, (Monday to Saturday, 11:00 am to 7:00 pm).

Since 1999, Kamel Mennour shows in his 4 locations (47, rue Saint-André des Arts, 6 rue du Pont de Lodi – Paris 6, 28 Avenue Matignon – Paris 8 & 51 Brook Street, London), the work of thirty young and internationally known contemporary artists, www.kamelmennour.com

For any further information :

agathe@kamelmennour.com _ +33 1 56 24 03 63

beatriceparrinello@bpfconseil.com +33 6 63 72 16 06

Claude Lévêque, *Heroes*, 2014. Écriture : Romaric Etienne.

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