

HUGUETTE CALAND

Bribes de corps

In the series of works she called *Bribes de corps*, which translates into English as “body bits,” Huguette Caland demonstrates an uncharted approach to the body that is both daring and exuberant. Born in Beirut in 1931, Caland was the daughter of Bechara El Khoury, the first president of the independent Republic of Lebanon. It was only after marrying, having three children, and caring for her ailing father that Caland embarked on an artistic career. She first took classes at the Fine Arts Department at the American University of Beirut, and eventually left for Paris in 1970. In a city known for its embrace of the avant-garde, Caland invented an idiom that explored bodily autonomy—its pleasures and limits. The *Bribes de corps* visually collapse conventional distinctions between abstraction and figuration, color and line, figure and ground, and the surety of identifying the depicted parts.

In 1978, Caland worked briefly as a fashion designer for Pierre Cardin. However, she fabricated the kaftans on display for her own use, drawing upon the skills of a Lebanese tailor for assistance in stitching patterns and motifs from her earliest paintings onto fabric. These garments further confound expectations around the display of the human form through their voluminous structure and the humor of the embroidered ornament. The final work in the exhibition is located at the top of the stairs and dates from the artist’s later years when she drew in a dense manner that recalls the weft and warp of textile, in particular that of Palestinian *tatreez*, where symbols and motifs tell individual narratives about their makers.

En la serie de obras que tituló *Bribes de corps*, que se traduce al español como “Fragmentos de cuerpo”, Huguette Caland demuestra un enfoque inexplorado del cuerpo que es tan audaz como exuberante. Nacida en Beirut en 1931, Caland era hija de Bechara El Khoury, el primer presidente de la República Independiente del Líbano. Fue solo después de casarse, tener tres hijos y cuidar a su padre enfermo que Caland emprendió una carrera artística. Comenzó tomando clases en la Facultad de Bellas Artes de la Universidad Americana de Beirut y terminó mudándose a París en 1970. En una ciudad conocida por acoger el arte de vanguardia, Caland inventó un lenguaje visual que exploraba la autonomía corporal: sus placeres y límites. *Bribes de corps* hace colapsar visualmente las distinciones convencionales entre abstracción y figuración, color y línea, figura y fondo, así como la certeza de identificar las partes representadas.

En 1978, Caland trabajó brevemente como diseñadora de moda para Pierre Cardin. Sin embargo, confeccionó los caftanes expuestos aquí para su uso propio, aprovechando las habilidades de un sastre libanés para ayudar a coser sobre las telas patrones y motivos de sus primeras pinturas. Estas prendas desafiaban aún más las expectativas sobre la representación del cuerpo humano debido a su estructura voluminosa y el carácter de los ornamentos bordados. La obra final de la exposición se encuentra en la parte superior de las escaleras y data de los años posteriores de la artista, cuando dibujaba de una manera densa que recuerda la urdimbre y la trama de los textiles, en particular del “tatriz” palestino, donde los símbolos y motivos narran historias individuales sobre las creadoras.

Translation by Elisa Cabal

Huguette Caland: Bribes de corps

The Arts Club of Chicago

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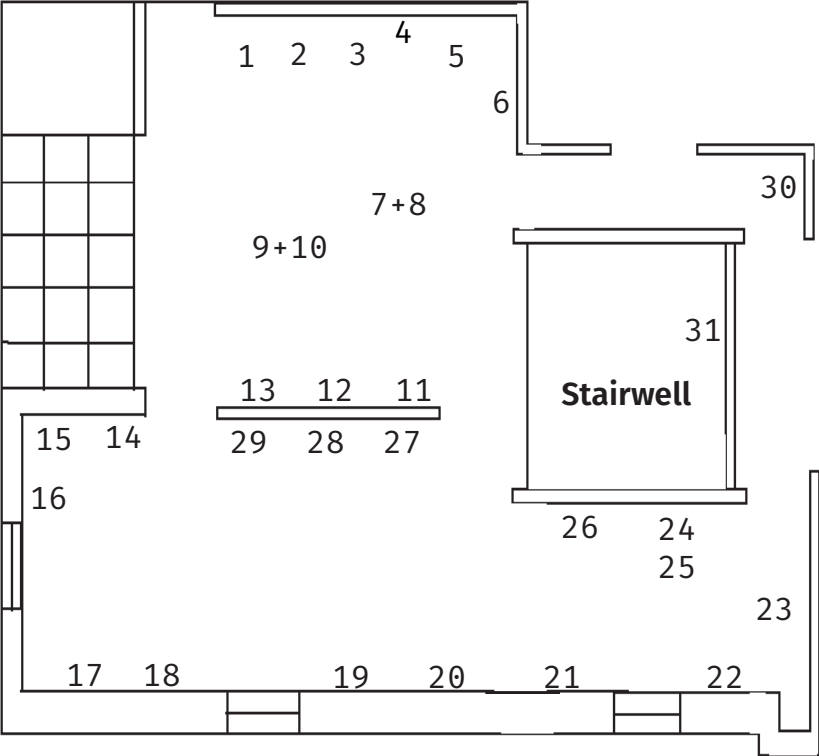
- 1. *Bribes de corps*, 1973. Oil on linen. 47 x 47 in. (119.4 x 119.4 cm).**
- 2. *Faces*, 1975. Oil on linen. 30 x 31 in. (76.2 x 78.7 cm).**
- 3. *Untitled (Bribes de corps)*, 1974. Oil on canvas. 18 x 24 in. (45.7 x 61 cm).**
- 4. *Anonyme*, 1973. Oil on linen. 14 x 10 3/4 in. (35.6 x 27.3 cm).**
- 5. *Self Portrait (Bribes de corps)*, 1973. Oil on linen. 50 1/2 x 35 in. (128.3 x 88.9 cm).**
- 6. *Bribes de corps*, 1973. Oil on linen. 59 x 59 in. (149.9 x 149.9 cm).**
- 7. *The First Dress*, 1970. Thread on fabric. 54 x 19 x 12 in. (137.1 x 48.2 x 30.5 cm).**
- 8. *Mannequin 1*, 1985. Wood, acrylic paint and foam. 73 x 19 x 12 in. (185.4 x 48.3 x 30.5 cm).**
- 9. *Tendresse (Dress #5)*, 1975. Thread on fabric. 54 x 19 x 12 in. (137.1 x 48.2 x 30.5 cm).**
- 10. *Mannequin 5*, 1985. Wood, acrylic paint and foam. 73 x 19 x 12 in. (185.4 x 48.3 x 30.5 cm).**

11. *Bribes de corps*, 1973. Oil on linen. 51 1/2 x 51 in. (130.8 x 129.5 cm).
12. *Bribes de corps*, 1973. Oil on linen. 51 1/2 x 51 1/2 in. (130.8 x 130.8 cm).
13. *Nous deux*, 1972. Oil on linen. 26 3/4 x 30 1/2 in. (67.9 x 77.47 cm).
14. *Bribes de corps (Monsieur, Visage)*, 1980. Oil on linen. 32 x 32 in. (81.3 x 81.3 cm).
15. *Bribes de corps (Madame, Visage)*, 1980. Oil on linen. 32 x 32 in. (81.3 x 81.3 cm).
16. *Untitled (Bribes de corps)*, 1980. Oil on linen, 32 x 32 in. (81.3 x 81.3 cm).
17. *Accroupie*, 1979. Oil on linen. 40 x 39.5 in (101.6 x 100.3 cm).
18. *Bribes de corps*, 1973. Oil on canvas. 46 5/8 x 46 3/4 in. (118.4 x 118.7 cm).
19. *Bribes de corps*, 1968-70. Oil on canvas. 33 x 46 in. (83.8 x 116.8 cm).
20. *Bribes de corps*, 1973. Oil on linen. 78 1/2 x 54 1/2 in. (199.4 x 138.4 cm).
21. *Bribes de corps*, 1973. Oil on linen. 59 1/16 x 59 1/16 in. (150 x 150 cm).
22. *Bribes de corps*, 1973. Oil on linen. 31 1/4 x 35 1/2 in. (79.4 x 90.2 cm).

23. *Blanc de blanc (Bribes de corps)*, 1975. Oil on linen. 78 7/8 x 79 7/8 in. (200.3 x 202.9 cm).
24. *Bribes de corps*, 1973. Oil on linen. 19 5/16 x 13 3/4 in. (49 x 35 cm).
25. *Blanc de blanc (Bribes de corps)*, 1973. Oil on linen. 13 3/4 x 19 1/4 in. (34.9 x 48.9 cm).
26. *Bribes de corps*, 1973. Oil on linen. 78 3/4 in. x 54 1/2 x . (200 x 138.4 cm).
27. *Sunrise*, 1975. Oil on linen. 39 1/2 x 39 1/2 in. (100.3 x 100.3 cm).
28. *Eux*, ca. 1975. Oil on linen. 39 1/2 x 39 1/2 in. (100.3 x 100.3 cm).
29. *Untitled (Bribes de corps)*, 1971. Oil on canvas. 37 13/16 x 37 13/16 in. (96 x 96 cm).
30. *Bribes de corps*, 1973. Oil on linen. 18 x 15 in. (45.7 x 38.1 cm).
31. *Apple Green and Green Tomato*, 2010. Mixed media on canvas. 62 1/2 x 171 in. (158.7 x 43.3 cm)*.

*located on the second floor landing. Please ask for assistance to view.

Ontario St



St. Clair St

This exhibition is curated by Hannah Feldman, Keith L. and Katherine Sachs Associate Professor of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania.

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