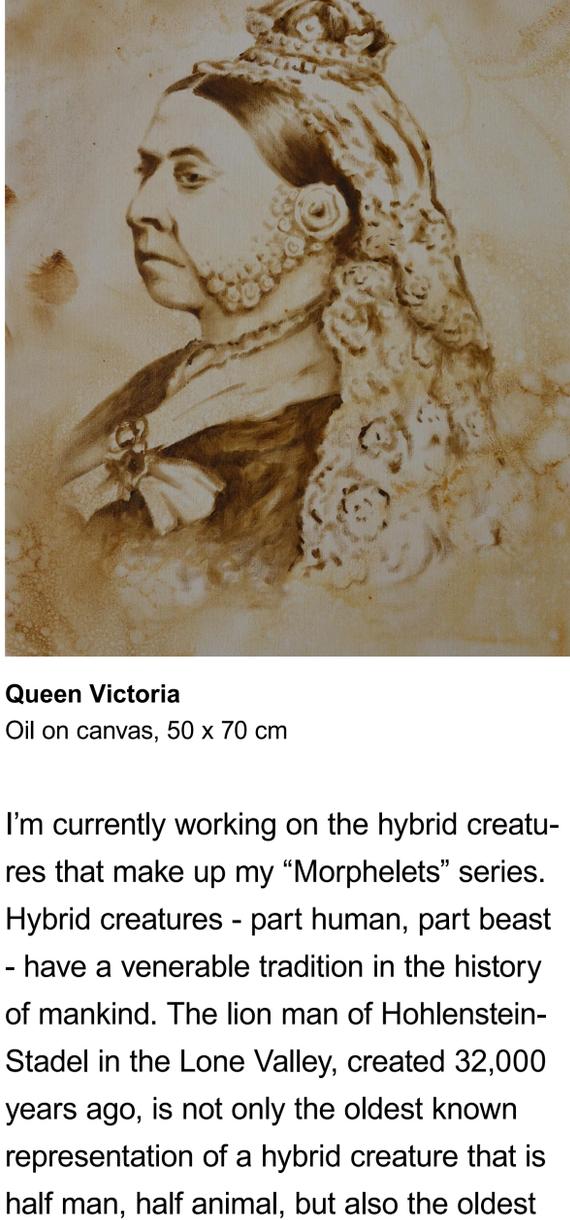


# The Morphelets

by **Patric Binda**



**Queen Victoria**

Oil on canvas, 50 x 70 cm

I'm currently working on the hybrid creatures that make up my "Morphelets" series. Hybrid creatures - part human, part beast - have a venerable tradition in the history of mankind. The lion man of Hohlenstein-Stadel in the Lone Valley, created 32,000 years ago, is not only the oldest known representation of a hybrid creature that is half man, half animal, but also the oldest known sculpture. Hybrid creatures have always been a focus of artistic creation. They have not lost their appeal to this day and are used primarily by the entertainment industry in the form of cartoon and science fiction film characters. Whereas in old times, hybrid creatures were said to have been created by the gods, they are now seen as man-made mutants, a cross-breed of man and animal. In the fantasy genre, mutants generally owe their existence to modern genetic engineering. My "Morphelets" are placed in a historical context and are created using the preferred media and painting tools of their respective time. Thus, I create a kind of family archive spanning era after era, from the Stone Age to the future.

## The Darwin Age

The „Darwin Age Morphelets“, a series of imaginary hybrid creatures from 1850 to 1880, is named after Charles Darwin (1809–1882), whose theory of evolution refuted the myth of man as a product of divine creation.

Since the art of this era was shaped by the invention of photography, I based my paintings for the „Darwin Age Morphelets“ series on the early monochrome photographs of that time.

Early photography is the first era represented in the epoch-spanning work "Morphelets", which is not surprising considering the former photo studio in which I work.

Inspired by this historical space, I wanted to exploit its potential by making full use of the technical possibilities of painting in my project of revamping the human shape.

This is what led to the "Morphelets". They also reveal what painting can do, as opposed to photography.

## Technique

The "Darwin Age Morphelets" series consists of oils on canvas treated with solvents, causing uncontrollable artificial decay and resulting in a seemingly morbid patina reminiscent of images from an age long past.

## A Look Ahead

After the Darwin age, I moved on to the Renaissance and Baroque eras. I'm currently working on medium and large-format oil paintings as well as mezzotint prints and etchings on the same topic.

I'm planning to cover one era after the other, using different media such as egg tempera, small sculptures and etchings, etc., depending on the era.

When I reach the present, I will embark on a very special journey, during which I hope to develop my own formal language.

## Exhibition

My "Darwin Age Morphelets" will be exhibited in the building of the Basel Trade Fair during the Art Basel exhibition from 16 to 22 June. The paintings will be on display on two floors at the Käfer Stube Restaurant, along the way to the ladies and gents rooms in the hallway and in the hall. The exhibition will only be accessible to the guests of the Käfer Stube Restaurant.

## Patric Binda

I was born in Basel in 1970. Even as a small child, drawing and painting were my favourite pastimes – and I've never stopped...

After spending most of my life in Zurich, I moved back to Basel in 2012, where I work as an independent artist. My workshop is located in Kleinbasel, near the Basel Trade Fair.

## Contact

**Patric Binda**

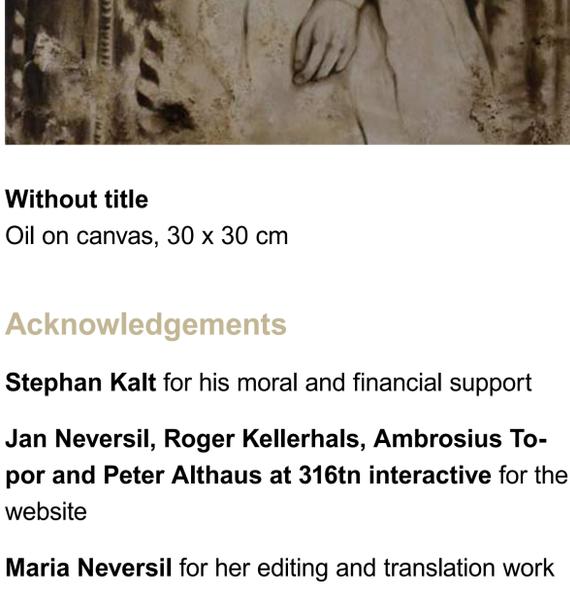
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**Without title**

Oil on canvas, 30 x 30 cm



**Without title**

Oil on canvas, 30 x 30 cm

## Acknowledgements

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