

E X H I B I T I O N

# TOTEMS

by Artist **Kevin PEARSH**

*Painting on Aluminum*

Château de Commarin,  
Côte d'Or, Burgundy



Exhibition: « TOTEMS » by Kevin PEARSH  
Venue: Château de Commarin (21320)  
Dates: June 2020 to December 2021

Born from the meeting-of-minds between Burgundian based Australian artist Kevin Pearsh and the owners of the Chateau de Commarin sprung the idea for an artistic project in the spectacular setting of the castle's moat. At the heart of this exhibition, one finds the subject of water, the source of life, which has nourished the earth and its inhabitants since time immemorial. In this magnificent setting, the Château de Commarin's moat evokes the essence of the Ganges River, symbolic image and recurring theme in the works of artist Kevin Pearsh.

The 11 Totems installed around the moat and park offer one a spiritual journey, an invitation to let one's spirit wander, and the exhibition conjures up a link between two worlds, experienced through mirrorlike reflections. Kevin Pearsh's artistic installation offers those strolling around the castle a colorfully rich cultural experience. A dreamlike effect is achieved by a juxtaposition of the solidity of Totems set in the moat against the stunning backdrop of the castle, adorned by the harmoniously soft and natural movements of shimmering water.

This outdoor exhibition invites visitors to discover or rediscover the Chateau de Commarin via a unique focus on the reflections, colors, and character of water. Flashes of light on raw metal are reflected in the moat and encourage one's own reflections, inspired by this richly significant combination of French architecture and contemporary art.



The «Totems» Exhibition in the park of the Château de Commarin is open to visitors every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. In high season, the castle's boutique and terrace café, as well as the park, remain open until 8 p.m. – an ideal spot for a happy hour drink while watching the sunset.

## PRESS PREVIEW

The “Totems” Exhibition will be inaugurated with a **Private View** in the presence of **His Excellency Mr. Brendan Berne, Australian Ambassador to France, on Thursday September 10 at 4 p.m.** – strictly by invitation only. Journalists are invited to reserve their place by contacting the Press Office.



## GRAND OPENING FOR THE PUBLIC

The artist Kevin Pearsh will be onsite from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. the weekend of Saturday & Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to welcome visitors that would like a guided tour.

This same weekend the Chateau de Commarin will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the « Musicales Oenologiques » Festival and the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Fantastic Picnic*, a convivial culinary event highlighting the best of gastronomy in the Burgundy-Franche-Comté region.

**Please note:** reservations for the *Fantastic Picnic* must be made directly at the Chateau de Commarin, by contacting: [chateau@commarin.com](mailto:chateau@commarin.com)



*« Painted reflections, mirrored by their own reflections in the water, invite earnest self-reflection... In a world of ever-present overstimulation, it is my hope that this exhibition offers a moment of quietude and contemplation.»*

Kevin PEARSH - June 2020

## ABOUT THE ARTIST - KEVIN PEARSH



One of Australia's most distinguished contemporary artists, Melbourne-born painter Kevin Pearsh settled in Burgundy in 1984, after studying fine arts in London, where he developed a passion for Indian culture. His first trip to India in 1978 from Madras to Kerala proved to be an inexhaustible source of inspiration - from the flamboyance of colorful saris, to the deep spiritual relationship of the Indians with the maternal figure that is the Ganges River.

For more than 40 years, he has traveled extensively across India, capturing the river's vast stretches and a facet of these intriguing lands via his canvases. Focusing initially on its inhabitants and their customs, but also on the abundance of cultural influences present in Indian architecture, Kevin then became intrigued by sacred & traditional rituals involving water. He is fascinated by the beauty and intricacies of reflections and color variations created by its movements.

Traveling the Ganges River from source to mouth, Kevin Pearsh set out in 2006 to create a collection of images which would bring to light some of the remarkable spiritual and mystical qualities of the Ganges River. His Ganga 21 series is a vibrant and vivid biography of one of the world's great natural resources, and a reflection in water and light of the Hindu religion and culture.

Kevin Pearsh has devoted a vast majority of his career to the study of water, and its reflective qualities have been a constant theme in his work. While he has mainly painted on canvas, the creation of this new concept of paintings on aluminum initiates a new era in his career. Intellectual reflection started on the Totems in late 2017, with the desire to expand and develop new dimensions for his paintings, continuing into 2018 when the first 3-dimensional works of painting on aluminum were realized. The series of 11 Totems was developed throughout 2019 and installation at the Château de Commarin took place in mid 2020.

The ensemble of his works can be seen in his studio, to book a visit (8km from Commarin) please contact: [info@ciel-rouge.com](mailto:info@ciel-rouge.com).

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### Atelier Kevin PEARSH

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## ABOUT THE CHÂTEAU DE COMMARIN

The Château de Commarin in the Côte-d'Or department of Burgundy, France, has been in the same family for over 8 centuries and is today owned by Bertrand de Vogüé. It has been listed as a historical monument since 1949. The chateau was refurbished entirely in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Marie-Judith de Vienne, Marquise d'Antigny, grandmother of the Prince de Talleyrand, the celebrated bishop, diplomat and minister under Napoleon and the Bourbon Restoration.

Included in its harmonious ensemble of architectural riches from the 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Chateau de Commarin possesses a unique and historically important collection of 16<sup>th</sup>-century heraldic tapestries. The collection also includes furniture and works of art from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries of exceptional quality, and these treasures represent a living and rare testimony of past generations.

In addition to interior visits open to the public, the Chateau de Commarin hosts an exhibition every year in the park of the castle. After several years of displaying classical sculptures (Jean-Marc de Pas, Marine de Soos...), the Château de Commarin is proud to present Kevin Pearsh's "Totems" - a symbolically important collection of contemporary works inspired by the prestigious moat and the possibilities of exploring plays of light and movement reflected in its waters.



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### Château de Commarin

21320 Commarin

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