

Grenet Catherine – Rueil-Malmaison

“Tu m’as donné ta boue et j’en ai fait de l’or” – “You gave me your mud, and I turned it into gold” – Paul Eluard, French poet (1895-1953)

About Gold ...

Why is gold so magic? What does make its status and uniqueness? Why do we crave for it? Gold, definitely, shines more than this star, key ingredient for life that we call “sun”, and uniquely captures eye look...yes, gold is beauty and attractiveness; and because gold is provided by “mother Nature” so parcimoniously, its rarity turns it into a symbol of richness, of preciousness, of superiority finally...

Over centuries, even millennium, Empires, Royalties, Religious art and divas have leveraged gold to hopefully endorse its iconic image of power, express their glamour and celebrate their glory.

Part of my artistic work is leveraging this magic of gold , even if very differently from the “total gold look” of past religious and royal courts art : just a piece of gold most often, a nugget capturing the look, a wink I hope sharing with the outer world.

Yet, beyond glory and glamour...

...Wouldn’t gold uniqueness be rooted in its eternity? Wouldn’t gold status result of contrast and opposition more than of absolute value?

What would be gold without lifetime? Without erosion? Without decrepitude? Without death?...Death of privileged and mythic people who wear it, death of exploited people who extract it. Our death also of course... but no sadness... Life wouldn’t be so precious and exciting if not limited in time, and it’s up to us to turn it into “alchemy”!

Most of the pieces of work that the Gold – Glory – Glamour project inspired me are rooted in this contrast statement: Gold stands for eternity , beauty and purity first and foremost by contrast and opposition to:

- The ephemeral, crystallized by rust and materials eaten into over time
- The dirtiness and suffering , symbolized by the mud that the “garimpeiros” need to mix and turn over in Brazil or South Africa to bring gold to life.

