

Asymptote    Ulfert Janssen    Acrylic paint on metal plates and wood

**Asymptote** (æ.s.ɪm.təʊt): where two sets of related elements approach but never intersect. - Derived from the Greek word "asumptōtos" which means "not falling together", **Asymptote** represents a concept that "related elements come close together but never actually becoming one, and it heads separately towards infinity".

This triptych expresses this phenomenon is also occurring in our modern society.

Rapid climate change is causing high water levels and wildfires around the world. However, the two elements "water" and "fire" come close but never intersect. While we feel the urge to merge them, as humans we tend to self-destruct and lose sight of the big picture, further pulling the elements apart with man-made climate change and short-term thinking/profit.

Since 400 million years, we have been deeply connected to water in every sense, and the first period in our lives we grow in a water bubble in the womb. Water is both a blessing and a danger. With the threat of growing climate change, all water levels are rising, creating challenges and additional dangers for people.

Fire gives us warmth, a hot meal, a sense of belonging around a bonfire, and has provided a platform for cultural exchange for many thousands of years. On the other hand, fire has unimaginable destructive power, and recent wildfires and droughts are causing disasters and destroying vast areas.

In other words, both "water" and "fire" have the opposing powers of creation and destruction on its own.

Contrast and tension are key elements in the artwork of **Asymptote** triptych.

Rising seas, charred wood, and the rift that divides the two in the middle indicate threats to our beautiful natural environment. The elements of water and fire seem to float on different levels, creating a tension that tears the dialogue between them.

'Water', 'Fire', 'Iron', 'Wood' and 'Time' play important roles in the composition of this artwork. They bring together opposite elements, which hardly can be expressed into a pair, and thereby bring it to life. The contrast between "water" and "fire" makes the nature of each other more prominent in this artwork, and the two contradicting elements lead to a new symbiosis like an oxymoron,  $1+1=3$ .

This artwork is based on the Ulfert Jansen's signature canvas made of iron plate exposed to natural and artificial corrosive processes (water and time), and the wood transformed by exposure to fire, with a high contrast of vibrant colors, powerful brushstrokes and dynamic composition.