

Galerie Dix9 is pleased to present

BOOK MEMORIES

with Marie Aerts, Sheila Concari, Leila Danziger,
Anne Deguelle, Mehdi-Georges Lahlou, Nemanja Nikolic,
Sophia Pompéry and Paula de Solminihac

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Paula de Solminihac, White opened book, 2015
terracotta, 54x29x10 cm

BOOK MEMORIES

Cultural object linked to the human history, the book is for the reader an extension of the memory and the imagination. Support of the text and the writing, it remains a living element on the civilization which even the digital revolution could not totally eradicate. The Book with a big «I» is so the foundation of the big monotheist religions (The Bible or The Koran) just like it became that of some political systems (such Mao's Little Red Book). By extension the book can include the personal diary, the notebook, the logbook, even the simple newspaper.

It is not surprising then that number of artists appropriates the book under the most diverse forms. Without speaking even about artist's book in which the strength of expression takes on multiple esthetic proposals, the book and its pages become material to be thought, about the book as an object or the book as a support of sense and message. Paradoxically this reactivation of the book produces objects which the art congeals and which turn out sometimes unexplorable because it is impossible to read all the pages, even the single page, nor even to touch them. *Sewn books* by Sheila Concari could be the paroxysm.

Manifesto of the culture, the book becomes an archaeological object in its translation in terra-cotta by Paula de Solminihac. Papyrus, folded, opened or closed, it lets appear the pages which constitute its essence. The magic of the fire-cooked material lets guess its relatedness to leather or textile, whose books were sometimes constituted. Pages may be virgin as in *Ardoises* by Mehdi-Georges Lahlou. Here the artist voluntarily erased the verses of the Koran which were copied out on these tablets of cedar wood in the Koranic schools.

Nemanja Nikolic refers to the text of the book. His video animation *Panic Book* is made of 2500 drawings made on the pages of books on social and political thought in the former Yugoslavia. Fleeing, mass panic and fear scenes from various films by Hitchcock take place on the background of theoretical reflection on mechanism of socialism and the development of Yugoslav society.

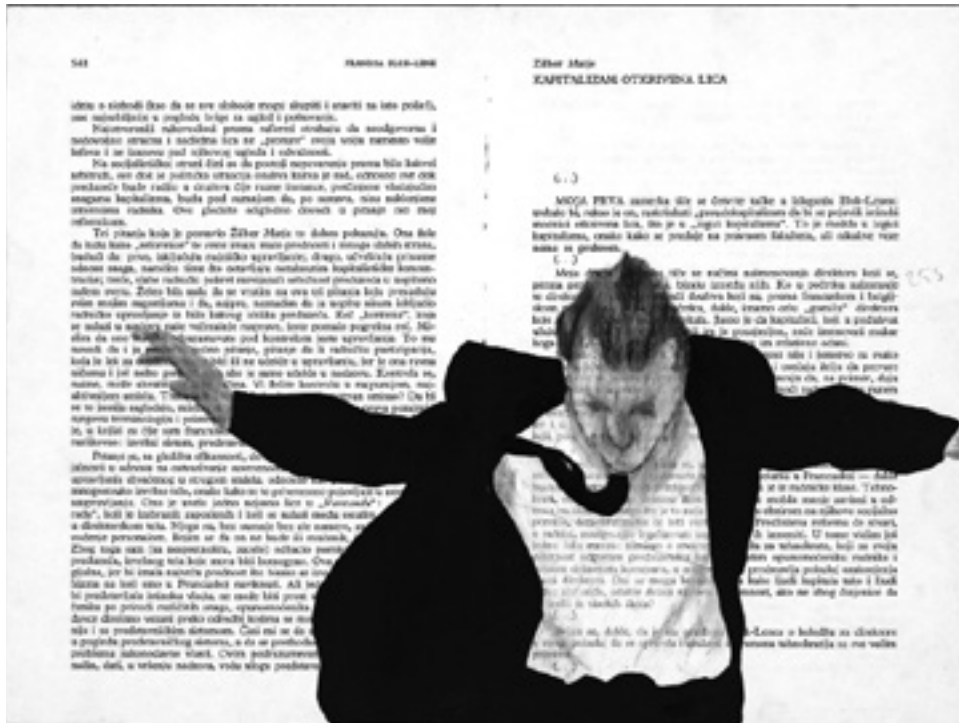
Questioning the notions of power and faith by unusual diversions, Marie Aerts revisits the *Beatitudes* of the Bible. In reference to the proselytism of the Church, the artist expresses herself with etching and Gothic characters used by the monks who copied out the religious texts. But the sentences are engraved without ink on white bottom. This visible purity hides an oppressive word where the disparities are depicted without blaming either the causes or the culprits.

Fruit of a workshop with artists and pupils of an agricultural college, the *Monument to Georges Pérec* undertaken by Anne Deguelle is an obvious book on the announced disappearance of the handwritten writing. This collective act, where all of *The disappearance* is retranscribed, create a work where vernacular and artistic gesture cross and merge in a beautiful impure.

It is also the handwritten writing which analyzes Sophia Pompéry in his project *Und Punkt*. This book of points identifies the original full stop of the first edition of fifteen love stories written by German authors during the last three centuries and kept in the National Library of Berlin. It begins with the full stop of Goethe in *The Sufferings of the Young Werther*.

Paula de Solminihac's diary notebooks, kind of intimate book and mind map, become themselves object of the artist investigations. This work centred on the memory becomes a personal archaeology. Here the artist uses certain principles of Francis Yates to connect outside appearances to subjective dimension of images printed in mind of the one who remembers. Somewhere she reveals the absence. Somewhere else she uses the paper of her diaries to create works which are similar to drawing and testify of her intimate universe. Elsewhere she creates paper shells that she assembles in a necklace, which symbolizes this alchemy to transform the useless into useful. She also seizes sheets of newspapers to translate the memory of an immense lotus of Amazonia (*Victoria*).

All those works refers obviously to the memory of the book, itself object of memory. As an ode to the magic of the page.



Nemanja Nikolic, *Panic Book*, 2015
ink and charcoal on book pages, 24x31 cm



Mehdi-Georges Lahlou, *Ardoises*, 2014
cedar wood, circa 47x23 cm each



Paula de Solminihac, *Armillarea*, 2015
paper from the artist notebooks, 34x41 cm

THE ARTISTS

Marie Aerts

Graduated of Fine Arts, the artist questions power and any kind of social organization in human societies. She works on the methods of legitimization of the various forms of domination, in particular their links with belief. Through alterations, be there subtraction or transformation, she creates critical fictional works, and uses often the character of «the headless man».

[more information](#)

Sheila Concari

Acoustician and visual artist, Sheila Concari initiates her first projects in scenography and performance around Strindberg texts. Her creations are at the intersection of genders, between theater and opera, between vision and listening between the voice and the look.

[more information](#)

Anne Deguelle

Always inquiring on major figures or specific places, Anne Deguelle works on topics as diverse as literature, art or religion. Entering the universe of the character or the place, she points out a trivial detail, often an unnoticed aspect, which becomes the electrical wire of a work of analysis with questionings and hypothetical answers

[more information](#)

Mehdi-Georges Lahlou

As he grew up in a multicultural environment, with a Muslim and a Christian parent, Mehdi-Georges Lahlou experienced our multicultural and multiform society in daily life. Renewing the vocabulary of sculpture and image, all his work shows a tension that goes along with great freedom.

Swinging over prejudices, the artist stands beyond the cultural borders which hold back our societies and plays on ambiguity through displacements that he operates with great talent.

[more information](#)

*artist exhibited in *De notre temps*, IAC Villeurbanne / ADIAF

Nemanja Nikolic

Graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade, department of Painting, Nemanja Nikolic works with various medium. His work raise number of issues and topics on post-conflict and transitional reality, from the trends of historical revisionism, to the position of a common individual and his/her everyday existence in the deterioration of economic and other crises we are facing as societies.

[more information](#)

* artist in focus at Drawing Now Paris

Sophia Pompéry

Trained at Berlin Weissensee University, Sophia Pompéry was a participant at the Laboratory of Spacial Experiments of Olafur Eliasson. Her works reveal a phenomenological perception of things. She produces video works and objects that derive from her interest in everyday objects and physical phenomena. Minimalistic in the choice of material, Pompery's conceptual works are motivated by a desire to slow down the sense of time. Their poetical ephemera leads the viewer into a state of contemplation

[more information](#)

Paula de Solminihac

Rising figure of the Chilean art scene, Paula de Solminihac produces singular works where privacy and artistic practice are closely linked. For over ten years, her artistic investigation has its focus on ceramic and is fundamented from the perspective of contemporary archeology : the artist seeks to put attention on processes rather than objects, systematizing the study of material activity as a specific field of art. Focused on the making itself as the problematic center of the current creative, artistic and educational field, Paula de Solminihac constantly moves from the empirical and corporal work to the intellectual and conceptual one.

[more information](#)

* the artist is part of the exhibition *Ceramix* at the Maison Rouge, Paris (March/June 2016)