

GALERIE DIX9 Hélène Lacharmoise

Officielle 2015 - booth C 49

Solo show Paula de Solminihac

Paula de Solminihac work is fundamented from the perspective of contemporary archeology. The artist seeks to put the attention on processes rather than objects, systematizing the study of material activity as a specific field of art and anthropology. She refers to the "Triangle Culinaire" pointed out by C. Levi Strauss to proceed with her own works: modeling the clay, cooking with fire, getting a recipient as the prime form to contain food. The dynamic analysis of technology, term proposed by A.Leroi Gourhan, aims to extend what has traditionally been called technique to the movements executed over the material. It is the accurate analysis method to explain the artist's productive responses to their territory.

The project on show at *Officielle* emerges from the artist's work at the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Colombia) on past February as the result of a residency first destined to make contact with the natives of the area, known as the first Latin-American potters. Some of the works made from this trip represent reminiscent vestiges of archeological finds, as they come from an excavation of the artist own experience, which at the same time alludes the fragility of culture in front of nature and time's buffering. Works are testimony of a devastated and extinct world like survivors of a catastrophe promoted by elements like water and fire.

Beyond works' production, the trip in search for the natives who inhabits the Sierra turned also into a complex inner trip: forgetting about day-to-day life, the artist captured this experience through outlines and drawings made on notebooks that are evidence and restatement of her permanent obsession with immediate register and memory. Obsessed by the phantasmagorical presence of what gets out of definitions and register, the project presented is the sketch of an imaginary story made from unrelated vestiges and empty spaces in her notebooks.

For over ten years, Paula de Solminihac's artistic investigation has its focus on clay and its processes. The works on show at *Officielle* develop tightly with her current exhibition at Galerie Dix9, Paris and *Ceramix* at Bonnefantenmuseum in Maastrich, NL, both to be held on October 2015 (the exhibition *Ceramix* will then go to La Maison Rouge, Paris and La Cité de la Céramique in Sevres)

Resuming the attention in processes over objects and insisting on artistic production on the field, the artist is clinging to the germinative value of practice and the awareness of being-from-making distinctive of Malevich's suprematist vision.

Paula de Solminihac was born in 1974 in Santiago de Chile. Bachelor of Visual Arts at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and a Master in Visual Arts from the University of Chile, she lives in Santiago, where she works in artistic creation, cultural management, teaching and occasional curatorial.

Since 2001 Paula has been participating in several national and foreign exhibitions, art fairs and biennials. She has been a scholarship of the Rockefeller Foundation and has won six competitive national and university research fund awards. She is editor of three books on subjects related to art, culture and cultural heritage who joined the Cultural Donations Law.