

GALERIE DIX9 Hélène Lacharmoise

Art Rotterdam 2018

Commonities section, curated by Lorenzo Benedetti

solo show Romain Mader



Lauréat du Prix Foam Paul Huf 2017 pour son projet "Ekaterina", Romain Mader questionne la nature de la photographie et sa relation avec la réalité. Oeuvre fictionnelle sur le tourisme sexuel en Ukraine, le projet se présente sous la forme de photographies et d'une vidéo dont le format s'apparente à un roman photos. L'artiste y narre l'épopée d'un jeune homme en quête d'une fiancée dans une ville curieusement peuplée uniquement de femmes. Entre réalité et fiction, l'oeuvre brille par l'humour et l'ironie avec lesquelles Romain Mader traite de sujets sérieux : solitude, amour, exploitation du corps féminin. Performant lui-même pour la caméra, l'artiste joue avec les clichés et l'esthétique de la photographie documentaire.

Né en 1988 en Suisse, Romain Mader a étudié les beaux arts au ZHdK et la photographie à l'ECAL à Lausanne. Ses oeuvres ont été exposées dans plusieurs institutions muséales, dont le musée FOAM à Amsterdam (« The Following is a True Story », solo show), la Tate Modern à Londres ("Performing for the camera", dont il fait la couverture du catalogue) et le musée d'art de Pully, Images in Vevey. Une monographie titrée "Ekaterina" est publiée par les éditions Morel à Londres.

Recipient of the 2017 Paul Huf Award, Romain Mader explores themes of gender-representation, loneliness and human behaviour by creating narratives within his images. In the project "Ekaterina", the artist travels to an imaginary city in Ukraine, and documents his search for a girlfriend, clumsily posing with mail-order brides and passing through a series of fictional towns. Between reality and fiction, irony and vulnerability, the work is made of photographs which form also a film looking like a photo novel. Performing himself the story, Romain Mader makes a kind of fictional documentary, questioning the nature of photography and its relationship with reality. In a same performative aspect, "Des nouveaux amis" was made on the beach in Deauville. Mader chatted to some tourists, pretending that he was looking for new friends and asked them to pose with him. Recently, Mader started to draw and paint on photographs.

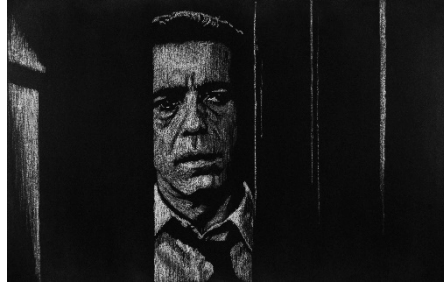
Born in 1988 in Switzerland, Romain Mader studied photography at ECAL in Lausanne and currently completes his Master in Fine Arts in Zürich. His work has been recently exhibited in institutions such as FOAM, Amsterdam (« The Following is a True Story », solo show, 2017-2018), Tate Modern, London (« Performing for the Camera », 2016), Musée d'art de Pully, Images in Vevey, CH. A monograph titled « Ekaterina » was published in 2016 by Mörel Books in London. His works figure in private and public collections such as FOAM, Amsterdam.

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Projection section

Double Noir by Nemanja Nikolic



Video HD, sound, 4'05, 2016

Edition of 6 + 2AP

Video animation made of drawings

White chalk and pastel on wood black board

120 x 77 cm, 47.2 x 30.3 inches

Double Noir is a video animation made of 60 sequences relating a man pursuing his own double. Each sequence is made of drawings realized with white chalk and pastel on wood blackboards. Altogether there are circa 1800 drawings. But just the last drawing stay visible on the surface of each blackboard, as an indice of that sequence. The iconic character of this project is Humphrey Bogart whose various figures are inspired by 19 black movies.

The work was presented in *The Pleasure of Love*, 56th October Salon in 2016, Belgrade, Serbia, curated by David Elliott

Conceptually and formally, the practice of Nemanja Nikolic is connected to the mediums of drawing, painting and animation. His fascination with the seventh art is a starting point for his specific approach of art. His first series of video animation were marked by the intensive experimentation with the expressive potential of classical drawing which in the same time drew him into more complex visualizations inspired by the language of moving image. Nikolic first animations often refered to Hitchcock's films, finding in their poetics some conceptual preferences and directions for further development in themes, form and style in his art practice.

Born in 1987 in Serbia, Nemanja Nikolić is graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade, department of Painting and currently a student of doctoral art studies. Since 2007 his works were exhibited on numerous solo and group exhibitions and festivals in Serbia and abroad. He won several awards, such as Award for drawing from Vladimir Velickovic Fund, special award for mural and wall installation from Raiffeisen Bank and Gallery 12HUB and Award for an exceptional creative innovation from Milos Bajic Fund. His works featured in many private and public collections including Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, Los Angeles, Ekard collection, Wassenaar, NL, ABN AMRO Amsterdam, NL, WAP Art Foundation Seoul, Telenor Collection and collection of Sumatovacka Center for Art Education in Belgrade. Nemanja Nikolić is initiator and co-founder of Belgrade based U10 Art Space. Represented by Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise, he lives and works in Belgrade.