



*Wedding in Leukerbad, series Ekaterina, 2012*  
inkjet print, 100x140cm

Galerie Dix9 is pleased to introduce

## **FROM DAVOS WITH LOVE !**

### **Romain Mader**

curated by Théo-Mario Coppola

17/03 - 28/04 2018

opening Sunday 18/03 5pm-8pm

### **GALERIE DIX9** Hélène Lacharmoise

19, rue des Filles du Calvaire 75003 Paris France

Tuesday to Friday 2pm-7pm, Saturday 11am-7pm

Tél: +33(0)1 42 78 91 77 / mail: [info@galeriedix9.com](mailto:info@galeriedix9.com)

<http://www.galeriedix9.com>

# FROM DAVOS WITH LOVE!

**Recipient of the FOAM Paul Huf Award 2017, Romain Mader creates fictional narratives within his images. Performing for the camera, he questions the nature of photography and its relation to reality. «From Davos with Love!» is his first solo exhibition in France.**

The title of this presentation refers to a conversation between Romain Mader and Théo-Mario Coppola at Schatzalp Sanatorium, which is currently a luxury hotel in Davos, Switzerland. A place that used to be famous with Thomas Mann's novel «The Magic Mountain», which points out the challenges faced by atypical characters to an evolving Europa. The conversation goes along the exhibition as a possible following of the artist narratives.

Conceived as a retrospective of Mader's last projects, the exhibition testifies the narrative and fictional aspect in the artist statement. His works question today social and cultural phenomenons (individualism, nomadism, personal mythologies) in relation with European identity, conceived as a paradigm. This research puts him in the context of Mittel Europa, and its renewal in the modern European literature, especially according to the book «*Fragilité de la narration, nouvelle approche de l'art contemporain. MittelEuropa comme paradigme*» by Lóránd Hegyi.

This immersion in Romain Mader's universe reveals various ways of exploring the artist purpose, at the crossroads of personal diary, fiction and sociological enquiry. Being himself immersed in specific environments (a trip to Ukraine, one afternoon on the beach, a visit to a motor show), the artist appears inside the image as an actor as well as a witness of the social reality that surrounds him. Leaving away the situationism and Adorno's critics on mass media culture, Romain Mader aims to reconcile the critical discourse on postmodernism by exhibiting himself to the critics by his presence inside the image. Meanwhile he transfigures reality into fiction.

We look at the world in the same time as we make it. We unbuild the world, in the same time as we are part of it. This philosophical reconciliation between constructivism (analysing the great schemes of society) and phenomenology (setting some personal experiments) is made in an aesthetics of post-absurd, following experiments by Nicolas Gogol or Franz Kafka in literature. Surprise, shifting, unsaid, incongruous, all of it allows the artist aesthetics to work on reality through personal narratives. Romain Mader watches on his contemporary fellows in the same way as he questions his own identity facing other identities. Is he the one that we see? Is he for himself the one that he shows?



*De nouveaux amis #2, 2011*  
inkjet print, 10x15x3cm



*Bientôt, series Ekaterina, 2012*  
inkjet print, 40x50cm



*Moi avec des filles #3, 2009*  
inkjet print, 30x45cm

# BIOGRAPHY

**Born in Switzerland in 1988, Romain Mader lives and works in Zurich**

## Education

Bachelor Photography, ECAL, University of Arts & Design Lausanne (2012)  
currently in Master class of Fine Art, Zurich, CH (2018)

## Awards / residencies

Paul Huf Award winner, FOAM Museum (2017)  
Residency at Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris (2015)  
Promotion de la relève en photographie, Pro Helvetia, Swiss Foundation for Culture (2014)  
Selected for the Swiss Design Awards (2013)  
Ewz-PhotoBook Prize (2013)  
Globetrotter World Photo (2013)  
„PLAT(T)FORM“, Fotomuseum Winterthur, CH (2013)  
Prize Raiffeisen (2012)  
Residency at the photography festival „Planche(s) contact“, Deauville, FR (2011)

## Solo exhibitions

### 2018

*From Davos with Love*, Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise, curator Theo Mario Coppola, Paris, FR  
Art Rotterdam, presented by Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise, NL

### 2017/2018

*This is a true story*, FOAM museum, Amsterdam, NL  
Paris Photo, presented by Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise, France

### 2016

*Wannabe*, with Jenny Rova, Coalmine, Winterthur, CH

### 2015

*Atomik Magik Circus*, with François Burland & Nadja Kilchhofer, Quartier Général, La Chaux-de-Fonds, CH

### 2014

*Atomik Magik Circus*, with François Burland & Nadja Kilchhofer, Festival Images, Vevey, CH  
*Moi avec des filles*, Journées photographiques de Bienne, CH  
*Valeriya*, with Nadja Kilchhofer, Photobastei, Zürich, CH

### 2013

*Ekaterina*, Quai 1, Vevey, CH

## Group exhibitions (selection)

### 2018

*Follow \_me*, curators Peter Pfrunder & Shi Hantao, OCAT art space, Shenzhen, China  
Art Paris, Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise, FR

### 2017

Untitled Miami, presented by Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise, US  
*Follow \_me*, curators Peter Pfrunder & Shi Hantao, OCAT art space, Shanghai, China  
Photo Basel, presented by Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise, CH

### 2016

*Performing for the Camera*, Tate Modern, London, curator Simon Baker, UK

### 2015

*Comète Suprême*, Galerie du Château, Renens, CH  
*Les Boutographies*, Montpellier, FR  
*Circulation(s)*, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Le Locle, CH  
*Circulation(s)*, cultural space Maurice-Utrillo, Pierrefitte, FR  
*Circulation(s)*, Le Cent Quatre, Paris, FR

### 2014

*Prix Photoforum & Selection* |Auswahl, Photoforum PasquArt, Bienne CH  
Kaunas Foto 2014, Kaunas, LT  
*A better life with Aliona*, Les Cabines, Nyon, CH  
Photo Ireland, Dublin, IE  
Schau, Dortmund, DE  
*Valeriya*, Photobastei, Zürich, CH  
Swiss Photo Award, Photobastei, Zürich, CH  
*Do you speak touriste? Quand les photographes décodent les clichés*, Musée d'Art de Pully, CH  
ECAL Photography, Galleria Carla Sozzani, Milan, IT

### 2013

ECAL Photography, ELAC, Renens CH  
ECAL Photography, Galerie Azzedine Alaïa, Paris, FR  
Jungkunst, Winterthur, CH  
Prix Photo, Schiffbau5, Zürich, CH  
*The Girlfriend Experience*, Nuit des Images, Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, CH  
*The Girlfriend Experience*, photobook presented at „6th Fotobookfestival“, Kassel DE / Le Bal, Paris FR / PhotoIreland Festival, Dublin IRL / MIA, Milan IT  
*Still searching*, Chateau de Guévaux, CH  
*Ekaterina*, Swiss Art Design, ArtBasel, Basel, CH

### 2012

ECAL Diplômes 2012, ECAL, Renens CH  
*Museumnacht Bern, Soupe populaire*, Credit Suisse Bundesplatz, Berne, CH

### 2011

*Planche(s) contact*, Festival de Deauville, FR  
*My Dear Cargo*, Kunstmuseum, Bremerhaven, DE

### 2010

On Tour, ECAL, Renens CH

### 2009

*Si les parents savaient*, Elac, Renens CH