

GALERIE DIX9 – Hélène Lacharmoise

Art Rotterdam 2013 : “ Questioning the Image”

Galerie Dix9 is a French contemporary art gallery ruled by Hélène Lacharmoise and located in the Marais district in Paris. Born out of the desire to promote mainly young talents on the long term, it presents also a few confirmed artists. The gallery puts the emphasis on the artist's vision and its relation to the medium used. It is particularly interested in artists who work across disciplines. Their ideas start from the « real », whether treated realistically or not. Their work concentrates on passages and mutations. It's a question of time and memory as well as a question of image.

Art Rotterdam 2013 : a presentation of four artists

Mehdi-Georges Lahlou (1983, French Moroccan) - sculpture and photography

Tracey Moffatt (1960, Australian) – video

Catalin Petrisor (1978, Romanian) – painting

Marion Tampon-Lajarriette (1982, French) – photography

Concept

"Questioning the image" is the title of a selection of works realized by the mentioned artists dealing with how pictures haunt our memory and perception. Through a conceptual approach of the image structure itself, the artists transfigure existing images, altering them to the point of endowing them with new dimensions and alternative meanings. The project aims to show how this process succeeds in painting as well as in video or photography.

Artists

With a Muslim and a Christian parent, **Mehdi-Georges Lahlou** experienced our multicultural society in daily life. Working on aesthetics, he disturbs clichés and breaks through barriers of religion and culture in his quest for freedom and emancipation from preconceived ideas. Swinging over prejudices, the artist stands beyond the cultural borders which hold back our societies. Still on a burlesque style, sometimes close to the absurd, his montages try to confuse the issue by manipulating the images. The process is visible in his ambiguous collages, in photography as well as in sculpture. For instance he mixes Moroccan decorative mosaic on iconic paintings of the Virgin with a Child, and making them “more sexy”. (The series was recently exhibited in St Bavon Gand cathedral, BE, curators Jan Hoet and Hans Martens).

An emblematic installation is currently exhibited in "Glissements de terrain", musée lanchelevichi at La Louviere in Belgium.

Collections: musée Les Abattoirs, Toulouse and numerous private collections



Mehdi-Georges Lahlou, *It's more sexy or Virgin with a child*, C-print, 2010

Tracey Moffatt, internationally renowned artist, re-builds a fiction from cut outs of Hollywood movies, as in the videos "Love" or "Doomed". Not concerned with capturing reality, she creates a reality herself, pointing out to the stereotypes of the film industry and their impact on popular culture. Exhibited all over the world, Moffatt's video works were presented in a film retrospective at The MOMA, New York in May 2012.



Tracey Moffatt, *Love*, video 21', 2003

Catalin Petrisor's paintings are seamless renditions based on photo-collages, creating post-utopian landscapes, desolated interiors, ruins of unfinished constructions, and hybrid spaces. These patchworks of images are completed by imperceptible drawings that are meant to upset the primary meanings. The desired effect is to read the painting as the photograph of a stage decor in which different realities are mirrored in a misleading manner. Adopting a conceptual and voluntary non-aesthetic approach, Petrisor's paintings reveal a space of chance and chaos, emphasizing the contradictory dynamic of the Romanian post-communist society. The process of reducing the painting means to the minimum, the controlled de-skilling in tackling the realist expression indicates a post-conceptual attitude that singularizes Petrisor from his generation's fellows and the figurative tradition of Cluj School of Painting.

Catalin's Petrisor had a recent solo exhibition at Galerie Dix9, curated by Maria Rus Bojan. His works figure in the permanent collections of the Czech National Gallery, and the Central Bank of the Netherlands, and several private collections in The Netherlands, France, China, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Romania.



Catalin Petrisor, *No title*, oil on canvas, 2012

Using digital tools, **Marion Tampon-Lajarriette** explores the means by which the images transform our relationship to reality. Questioning the process and the components of the image, she creates new charts and points out its relationship with the memory and dream.

The photographs of her last series **MoCLT** are strange images captured in the flow of infrared cameras that filmed a performance by night at the museum Mamco in Geneva : ambiguous traces related to a time of darkness, the failure of the visible and the significance of the ghosts in the collective imagination.

Her works figure in famous collections such as Mamco in Geneva, Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris, Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, Fondation François Pinault, and Swiss banks. Winner of Swiss art awards in Basel and several other grants, she is laureate for a residency in New York in 2013.



Marion Tampon Lajarriette - *MoCLT* series of 13 images, inkjet print, 2012

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