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DIONYSIAC

ART IN FLUX : JOHN BOCK, CHRISTOPH BÜCHEL, MAURIZIO CATTELAN, MALACHI FARRELL, GELATIN, KENDELL GEERS, THOMAS HIRSCHHORN, FABRICE HYBER*, RICHARD JACKSON, MARTIN KERSELS, PAUL MCCARTHY, JONATHAN MEESE, JASON RHOADES, KEITH TYSON

FEBRUARY 16TH - MAY 9TH 2005

GALERIE SUD, LEVEL 1 (OPENING 15TH FEBRUARY)

curator :
Christine Macel
curator for Contemporary art
in charge of the Department
of Prospective and
Contemporary Creation,
Musée national d'art moderne,
the Centre Pompidou

DIONYSIAC is an exhibition that brings together fourteen contemporary artists. Some of them are already well known in Paris, others have never shown here before. They range from Paul McCarthy to John Bock, Fabrice Hyber* and Jason Rhoades. In most cases, the artists will present a new work, especially created for the exhibition.

* « From the first of May 2004, I have decided, in full possession of my faculties ; that is to say in perfect health, to delete the T from Hyber → Hyber Santé »

.../...

A novel group exhibition, DIONYSIAC is a "reflection" exhibition, rather than a thematic display. It presents a state of mind that is shared by all the artists and offers its own perspective towards contemporary creation.

DIONYSIAC attributes a special relationship to art and life. It is against resignation, which is expressed as much through anger as it is through pleasure received through destruction, through excitement of life and flux, and through joy to the point of excess. In addition, there is an inclination for laughter, for irony and a form of subversion, in so far as it is still possible today. Music is also at the heart of the exhibition with a "sound room" created together with the artists.

The neologism, DIONYSIAC, has been invented by combining French and English. The newly coined word is derived from the adjective "dionysiaque", used by Friedrich Nietzsche in his book *The Birth of Tragedy* (1871). In using "dionysiaque", Nietzsche was inspired by the Greek god Dionysos, god of both explosion and enthusiasm, the force of life and destruction, of all outbursts.

Nietzsche developed this aesthetic concept throughout his written work, leading to the notion of flux in excess, of which life is only a part. Dionysiac goes hand in hand with Apollonian, the harmonious force. It is in this "tight", even contradictory articulation, that contemporary tragedy is situated.

The Dionysiac book published on the occasion of the exhibition is a publication conceived by Christine Macel with Christophe Brunquell and the artists. It includes the participation of Jean-Pierre Criqui and Barbara Stiegler.

THE ARTISTS

John Bock

Born in 1965 in Germany,
lives and works in Berlin

Christoph Büchel

Born in 1966 in Switzerland,
lives and works in Basel

Maurizio Cattelan

Born in 1960 in Padua, Italy,
lives and works in Milan and New York

Malachi Farrell

Born in 1970 in Ireland,
lives at Malakoff

Gelatin

Austrian group of artists
working in Vienna

Kendell Geers

Born in 1967 in South Africa,
lives and works in Brussels

Thomas Hirschhorn

Born in 1957 in Bern, Switzerland,
lives and works in Paris

Fabrice Hyber *

Born in 1961 in Luçon, France,
lives and works in Paris

Richard Jackson

Born in 1939 in Sacramento, USA,
lives and works in Los Angeles

Martin Kersels

Born in 1960 in Los Angeles, USA,
lives and works in Sierra Madre

Paul McCarthy

Born in 1945 in Salt Lake City, USA,
lives and works in Los Angeles

Jonathan Meese

Born in 1971 in Tokyo,
lives and works in Berlin

Jason Rhoades

Born in 1965 in Newcastle, USA,
lives and works in Los Angeles

Keith Tyson

British born in Ulverston (UK) in 1969,
lives and works in London

USEFUL INFORMATION

CENTRE POMPIDOU

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opening hours

February 16th – May 9th 2005,

Galerie sud, level 1

Open daily, except Tuesdays,

11:00 – 21:00

(ticket office closes at 20:00)

Admission

The Pass

"A day at the Centre Pompidou"

10 euros

(tickets can be bought on line
and printed at home

on www.centrepompidou.fr)

Concessions : 8 euros

gives admission to the Musée
national d'art moderne as well as
to all temporary exhibitions

Admission to the exhibition

7 euros

Concessions : 5 euros

Admission free to the holders of
the Centre Pompidou annual Pass

For further information :

www.centrepompidou.fr

Prior to the exhibition, Christine Macel with Jean-Pierre Criqui, critic, exhibition curator, director of the Cahiers du MNAM developed a reflection on the subject in consulting the following group of people : Christian Schlatter, philosopher, professor of aesthetics at the Sorbonne ; Jacques Bouveresse, philosopher, professor of philosophy at the Collège de France ; Bertrand Lavier, artist ; Barbara Stiegler, philosopher ; Dieter Scholz, curator, Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf

THE PUBLICATION

The **Dionysiac publication** is conceived by Christine Macel with Christophe Brunquell. It includes approximately 250 pages, black and white and colour, and is published by the Centre Pompidou. It has :

- a glossary, collage of texts and illustrations, clarifying the concept of "Dionysiac", by Christine Macel
- essays by Jean-Pierre Criqui, Christine Macel and Barbara Stiegler
- contributions by each artist

THE FILM

The **Dionysiac film**, documentary of 26', is a scenario written and created by Natsuko Uchino and produced by the Centre Pompidou. It includes 14 portraits of the artists and the making-of the exhibition, as well as a few surprises. (bilingual DVD)

PERFORMANCES

Performances on the opening and during the exhibition by **Kendell Geers, Gelatin...**

CINEMA NIGHTS

- 17th February : **Paul McCarthy** will present two films (Cinéma 1)
- 31st March : **John Bock**, invited by Prospectif Cinéma, will show all of his videos for the first time ever (Cinéma 1).

CONFERENCE

The post-Dionysiac conference : "Art action direct"

April 13th 2005, the Revues parlées / Forums de société will present a conference conceived of by Mark Alizart with Christine Macel. It poses problems that are touched upon in the DIONYSIAC exhibition.

What is our "post-post modern" period, since 1989 made of ? Is the Dionysiac a breath of fresh air ? Is it simply yet another form of romanticism or does it define a new radicalism ? How can the artist define his practice today in terms of the overturning of values : is this overturning in itself desirable and possible today ?

The DIONYSIAC exhibition believes that we are well and truly clear of romanticism and that hope can be found in the principles of flux and energy, and in the principle of democracy.

Artists, philosophers, art historians and exhibition curators respond or attempt to respond to these questions.