

Press release

“À corps & à textes” [Through Bodies & Texts]

**Orla Barry, Michael Dean, Clare Gasson, Falke Pisano,
Reto Pulfer, Alexandre Singh, Richard T. Walker**

Guest curator :

Francesco Pedraglio in the framework of La Galerie’s annual residency for curators

2 June – 25 July 2009

Opening night Saturday 30 May 6-10pm

Press preview 5-6pm

The artists will be present

On the evening of the opening, a free shuttle will leave Paris (Place de la République, Metro République, exit Rue du Temple) at 7:00pm. Return to Paris: 10:00pm. No reservation required, seating subject to availability.

The exhibition “À corps & à textes” explores the contradictory yet creative relationship between the narrative, poetic and analytic potentialities of writing, investigating their wide spectrum of manifestations and their experimental results in the practice of seven international artists, most of them showing in France for the first time.

The conceptual framework of “À corps & à textes” could be described as a fragile equilibrium between coexisting strategies of employing written words as a motor for artistic creation: from an exquisite rarefaction of the art object through subjective narrations to an analytic investigation of language as a medium for regaining the physicality of the work itself.

The heterogeneous pieces presented by the artists position themselves between these major attitudes: in the interstices of writing as ‘dematerialising power’ and in the folds of ‘lettering as sculpting’.

The existence of endless poetic shadings, as countless as the narratives used by the artists in recollecting fragments of reality as a basis for their work, can transmute the most subjective everyday account into mythology and the most scrupulous analysis of a text into a physical object. Writing is the *fil rouge* that connects these extremes, creating a fluid field of encounters for the works on show.

This fluidity of meaning is mirrored by the title “À corps & à textes”, which underlines the physical nature of the text – as a body in space, a body that occupies space – and, at the same time, concretely plays with the wittiness of a simple linguistic twist.

Clare Gasson's sound installation and **Orla Barry's** video are intimate researches into writing as an imprint of the artist's subjectivity, while **Alexandre Singh's** unprejudiced use of fictional and sci-fi narratives inside complex installations is the catalyst for the creation of his alternative history. **Michael Dean's** sculptures are an attentive exploration of the physical and typographic nature of writing, while **Falke Pisano's** video is a speculative application of written words as a tool for analysing the conceptual foundation of the art object. **Reto Pulfer's** work, with all its elements and their fluid combinations, is a performable mnemonic exercise in images and objects, which then is translatable into readable text, while **Richard T. Walker's** open letters to natural elements are a disarming comment on often-false romantic rhetoric through a relational psychology of interior/exterior.

Words are important, and the exhibition analyses the consequences of this assertion through **works and ephemera** that make written words their functional core. The result is a unique equilibrium of fictional mythologies and conceptual cosmogonies capable of laying bare the reasons behind the artists' need to write, write, write.

An integral part of "À corps & à textes" is the accompanying **programme of events** centred on the oblique relationships between writing and art making. Involving only Paris-based artists, the events are scheduled for different venues from Noisy-le-Sec to Paris, and include screenings, performances and readings (see the programme below).

The artists of "À corps et à textes"

Orla Barry

Born in Wexford, Ireland, 1969. Lives and works between Brussels and Ireland.
www.nadjavilenne.com

Michael Dean

Born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1977. Lives and works in London.
www.mdean1977.com / www.alessandrodemarch.it / www.worksprojects.co.uk

Clare Gasson

Born in Birmingham. Lives and works in London.

Falke Pisano

Born in Amsterdam, 1978. Lives and works in Berlin.
www.edbprojects.nl / www.balicehertling.com / www.hollybushgardens.co.uk

Reto Pulfer

Born in Bern, Switzerland, 1981. Lives and works in Berlin.
www.balicehertling.com / <http://artnews.org/retopulfer>

Alexandre Singh

Born in Bordeaux, France, 1980. Lives and works in New York.
www.monitoronline.org / www.preromanbritain.com

Richard T. Walker

Born in Shropshire, United Kingdom, 1977. Lives and works in San Francisco.
www.richardtwalker.net

Annual residency programme for curators at Noisy-le-Sec

Since 2006, La Galerie has hosted foreign curators for an annual three - month residency, in order to support an exhibition in a French contemporary art centre and allowing a discovery of the Île-de-France contemporary scene (artists, professionals, other organizations...). The annual residency for curators at La Galerie is receiving the backing of DRAC Île-de-France (Ministry of Culture).

Francesco Pedraglio is a curator born in 1981 in Italy, and now based in London where he cofounded FormContent with Caterina Riva and Pieternel Vermoortel. Selected by La Galerie's board via a call for candidates to achieve his project "À corps et à textes", he will be in residence at Noisy-le-Sec from 6 April to 30 June 2009.

www.formcontent.org

Programme of events around the exhibition "À corps et à textes"

Performances during the opening Saturday 30th June

> Reto Pulfer, 8:00pm, La Galerie / Alexandre Singh, 9:00pm, residency studio, Noisy-le-Sec

Off-site: performances evening with Alex Cecchetti and Marcelline Delbecq

> Friday 26th June in the evening, place in Paris to be confirmed

Francesco Pedraglio invites curators and artists whom he met in residency : reading and screening evening

> Friday 3rd July, 7:30 to 9:00pm, residency studio, Noisy-le-Sec

And also...

Lecture discussion with Jérôme Poret, artist, about the links between sound and visual arts within the framework of « Films' music » festival in Noisy-le-Sec

> Thursday 18th June from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, Roger-Gouhier multimedia library, Noisy-le-Sec

« A time for art » art criticism for all led by Sally Bonn, in partnership with the Centre de Philosophie de l'art, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University

> 2 sessions in June (dates to be confirmed) 7:00 to 8:30pm

OUT IN THE SUN / SUMMER IN ART CENTRES 2009

28th May – 30th September 2009

The exhibition « À corps et à textes » is part of the event OUT IN THE SUN / SUMMER IN ART CENTRES 2009 initiated by d.c.a, the French Association for the Development of Art Centres. Among the 44 original tourist itineraries dreamt up by art centres, La Galerie, Contemporary art centre will suggest from 2 June to 25 July to its visitors ideas to discover sites of contemporary architecture, landscape gardens, public art commissions, as well as the addresses of inventive restaurants and design hotels.

Let's discover the routes of the art centres from 28 May :

www.flowersway.com/pleinsoleil2009

www.dca-art.com

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

La Galerie
Contemporary Art Centre
1 rue Jean Jaurès
F-93130 Noisy-le-Sec
T: +33 (0)1 49 42 67 17

Tuesday to Friday: 2 - 6pm
Saturday: 2 - 7pm

Exceptional opening time :
Sunday 21st June 2 - 7pm

lagalerie@noisysesec.fr
La Galerie website under construction

How to get to La Galerie from Paris :
By RER E / Tramway T1 / Bus 105 ou 145

Entry to La Galerie is free

La Galerie is a publicly funded contemporary art centre, receiving assistance from the City of Noisy-le-Sec, the Ministry of Culture (DRAC Île-de-France), the Seine-Saint-Denis Departement and the Île-de-France Region.

La Galerie is a member of:
tram, Paris/Île de France contemporary art network (www.tram-idf.fr)
d.c.a, French association for the development of art centres (www.dca-art.com)

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This exhibition is part of the event
OUT IN THE SUN / SUMMER IN ART CENTRES 2009"



Noisy-le-Sec

**Available images for press
In high resolution on request**

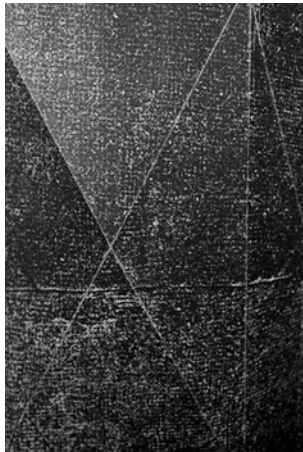
« À corps & à textes »
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Orla Barry, *Wideawake* (still), 2003
Video, 25 min, colour
Courtesy galerie nadjaVilenne



Clare Gasson, *The Washaway Road*, 2008
Sound piece, stage, chair and light
Courtesy of Gimpel Fils



Michael Dean
Yes (working title), 2009
18 cm x 12 cm
Archival light jet print
Courtesy the artist and
worksprojects, Bristol



Reto Pulfer, *Aquariumspiel in 128 Zuständen (PMG)* (detail), 2007
Aquarium, wooden furniture, velvet,
4 pictures b/w, ceramic
Variable size (ca. 65 cm x 80 cm x 70 cm)



Alexandre Singh
The Marque of the Third Stripe, 2008
Inkjet print, 108 cm x 138 cm, pages 136-137



Falke Pisano, *Chillida (Forms and Feelings)*, 2006
Double video on monitor, DVD, 14 min.



Richard T. Walker
Hesitant due to repeated achievement, 2008
c-type print, San Francisco
Courtesy of the artist and Angels Barcelona