

« Itinéraire bis »

Group Exhibition from June 25 to September 18, 2011
Preview Friday June 24, 2011 starting at 6:30 PM

Press Release

With "Itinéraire bis", the Val-de-Marne Museum of Contemporary Art presents an exhibition that suggests the atmosphere of the upcoming summer holidays from June 25 to September 18. Featuring seventy works from the MAC/VAL collection, the exhibition was conceived to present visitors with the chance to take the path less taken, to leave town for a country house, or just play hooky. Frank Lamy and Julien Blanpied conceived this atmospheric, poetic group exhibition as a succession of tableaux, a collection of holiday "postcards". The exhibition includes works by Pierre Ardouvin, Davide Balula, Gilles Bec, Jacques Faujour, Robert Doisneau, César, Roman Cieslewicz, Delphine Coindet, Emile Compard, Raymond Hains, Jean Hélion, Peter Klasen, Bernard Rancillac, Willy Ronis, Laurent Tixador, and Abraham Poincheval chosen specially for the event. The curators invite visitors to forget their worries for the time of an exhibition whose themes and motives give rhythm to a hanging created around the principle of esthetic *flânerie*.

Because summertime lends itself to adventures, discoveries, encounters, changes, meditation, and repose, the exhibition "Itinéraire bis" blazes an original trail through the collection, proposing a re-reading that is at once romantic and imaginary. After all, summer also hides its share of mystery! As Marguerite Duras once put it, "What is the idea of summer again, anyway? Where is it when it is late in coming? What was it during the time it was here? From what color, heat, illusion, and pretence was it made?"

Let the artists respond:

Robert Doisneau, Willy Ronis and Jacques Faujour use photography as a visual diary, taking us on a trip along the banks of the Marne. As one views their photos, an atmosphere of tenderness and nostalgia pervades and time's transparency seems to correspond to the broad reign of days gone by. The future can be seen in terms of this past, and as is often the case, these artists captured moments that seem to have been decisive turning points. The characters in their works are like lines leading a vanishing point in time, youth, whereas their adult subjects seem trapped. What became of Philippe Cognée's sand castles, swept away by the tide? What remains of Erró's American dream ?

New constraints and unexpected events limit our hopes and dreams. Visitors allow themselves to be permeated by these narratives. Barthélémy Toguô's journeys are loaded with meaning, "non-stop transit", "cancelled", "nationality"... Pierre Ardouvin presents a grim version of Michel Polnareff's song *Holidays* with its fire-blackened car.

Many who leave on vacation are faced with a choice, or more precisely, with no choice at all. Should one leave or stay? How does one escape without means to travel beyond the city limits? Michel de Broin developed a poetic, utopian solution and proposed building swimming pools right in the asphalt of every intersection in the Parisian suburb of Vitry-sur-Seine. In a different tone, Dominique Petitgand created an installation in the form of a sonorous postcard. Alain Bernardini chose to upend the rules of the game in place at MAC/VAL; for the museum's personnel, time once meant for work could also become time to finally have fun.

The omnipresence of water in the photographs, films, paintings, and installations of these artists is worth note. Confronted with the infinite mystery of the sea, the visitor is transported to Venice's lagoon with Thierry Kuntzel, to sandy beaches with Gilles Aillaud. For many of those on vacation, the water's edge becomes the space where the imagination drifts on the waves for the length of a summer.

"Itinéraire bis" also offers images from love stories expressed with not only words, but with the brushstrokes of painter Bruno Perramant, without forgetting one of summer's main events in a revised version of the *Tour de France* by Bernard Rancillac.

These are the unforgettable experiences that compose the promise of a journey rich in surprises and new encounters.

With works by :

Gilles Aillaud, Pierre Ardouvin, Davide Balula, Gilles Bec, Alain Bernardini, Michel de Broin, Pierre Buraglio, César, Roman Cieslewicz, Philippe Cognée, Delphine Coindet, Émile Compard, Olivier Debré, Robert Doisneau, Erró, Jacques Faujour, Raymond Hains, Jean Hélion, Alain Jacquet, Peter Klasen, Jirí Kolár, Thierry Kuntzel, Ange Leccia, Barbara and Michael Leisgen, Nicolas Moulin and Bertrand Lamarche, Marylène Negro, Vincent Olinet, Bruno Perramant, Dominique Petitgand, Françoise Pérovitch, Édouard Pignon, Philippe Ramette, Bernard Rancillac, Willy Ronis, Laurent Tixador and Abraham Poincheval, Barthélémy Toguô...

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