

Simon Starling
"THEREHERETHENTHERE"
[Works 1997-2009]

Press Release

MAC/VAL

Opening Thursday September 17 at 6:30 PM
From September 18 to December 27 2009

PARC ST LÉGER – CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN

Opening Saturday September 19 at 5:30 PM
From September 20 to December 20 2009

Center stage for this autumn's artistic season goes to Simon Starling, one of the most daring British artists active internationally. For this major solo exhibition in France, the 2005 Turner Prize winner will present a twofold artistic project located both at MAC/VAL and at the art center in the Parc Saint-Léger. In both sites, he continues his work of transformation and metamorphosis, creating new circulations between material/object and substance/form. The consummate re-interpreter, Simon Starling's work is a fresh analysis of contemporary society, set against a backdrop of the environmental, economic, and cultural consequences of globalization and their attendant dislocation. The exhibit, highly anticipated by French audiences, is co-organized by MAC/VAL and the Parc Saint-Léger.

For over 15 years, Starling has been revisiting the history of forms and questioning the notions of value, construction, and the status of objects. His sculptures, installations, and voyages are generated through transformation, hybridization, dislocation, and *in situ* pieces. By methodically unravelling both material and context, Simon Starling realigns the ties that bind seemingly unrelated and non-contemporaneous subjects.

For his first solo exhibit in France, on two different sites, the artist continues to develop these themes which seem more timely than ever.

The exhibit design at MAC/VAL is inspired by the idea of transformation, of objects and their mirror image. Using the principle of self-generative reproduction, Simon Starling places dislocation at the heart of his creative process. Documentary and fiction are tossed into his work with encyclopaedic archiving, which manages to avoid both the didactic and the frustrating. The narrative structure which holds the exhibit together is far from linear; rather it echoes the notion of re-interpretation as tangible artistic reflection. The viewer is coaxed into a world whose poetry defies the seemingly austere nature of the works.

With interlocking compositions and endless mirroring, the MAC/VAL exhibit dangles many surprises along its path, revealing unexpected aspects of Simon Starling's work. Striking down the road of re-interpretation, we follow the path of meaning as it recedes before us. At both MAC/VAL and the Parc Saint-Léger, the artist displays objects as relics; his art of context continually sparks a narrative form. The works are inextricably linked to their associated stories: *Rock Raft*, *Flaga* and *Three White Desks* are messengers of the stories they carry. Starling warps their context as a way of jolting the viewer out of complacency.

Be it in inverting processes, the use of unproductive technologies, or simply in the metamorphosis of an object, Simon Starling recasts value attribution and perception. His transformations and hybridizations query the reality of objects. Their destruction/transformation/recomposition places them within a narrative, leaving visible scars and converting their value from the functional to the symbolic.

Press Contact

anne samson communications

Christelle de Bernède

Tel: + 33 (0) 1 40 36 84 35 / 40

Email: contact@annesamson.com