

MAC

VAL

Persona grata?

Full details of exhibitions
and programming at MAC VAL at
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Musée d'art contemporain
du Val-de-Marne

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Opening hours

Tuesday to Friday, 10 am–6 pm. Saturday, Sunday and public holidays,
noon to 7 pm. Last admissions 30 minutes before closing. Closed
on 1 January, 1 May, 15 August and 25 December.

9th hanging of the collection

Curators: Alexia Fabre, Anne-Laure Flacelière,
Ingrid Jurzak

With works by Pierre Ardouvin, Renaud Auguste-Dormeuil, Laëtitia Badaut Haussmann, Richard Baquié, Dominique Blais, Alina et Jeff Bliumis, David Brognon & Stéphanie Rollin, Ismaïl Bahri, Pierre Buraglio, Mircea Cantor, Kyungwoo Chun, CLAIRE FONTAINE, Claude Closky, Philippe Cognée, Delphine Coindet, Pascale Consigny, Bady Dalloul, Éléonore False, Thierry Fontaine, Grout/Mazéas, Ara Güler, Mona Hatoum, Laura Henno, Pierre Huyghe, Emily Jacir, Yeondoo Jung, Thierry Kuntzel, Léa Le Bricomte, M/M, Lahouari Mohammed Bakir, Eva Nielsen, Nøne Futbol Club, Jean-Christophe Norman, François Paire, Philippe Parreno, Bruno Perramant, Laure Prouvost, Judit Reigl, Anri Sala, Sarkis, Bruno Serralongue, Esther Shalev-Gerz, Société Réaliste, Djamel Tatah, Barthélémy Togo, Patrick Tosani, James Webb, Sabine Weiss, Xie Lei...

“Through hospitality, the impossible happens”

Jacques Derrida

“Persona grata?” continues the initial exhibition presented from October 2018 to January 2019, in both museums, MAC VAL and the National Museum of Immigration History. Among the hundred or so works that make up this new exhibition, some new pieces are unveiled, including some twenty recent acquisitions exhibited here for the first time.

“Persona grata?” encourages questioning...

Today, hospitality is in question. It is even in danger. If the city of tomorrow is taking form on the coasts, frontiers and jungles of today’s Europe, then gratitude and hospitality are not its founding pillars.

If taking people in leads all too often to taking it out on them, then that makes reaching out an act of vandalism. Just as the fact of welcoming the other can be envisaged only because it is prevented, then hospitality today is countered, or even illegal.

And yet invitation has been the keyword at MAC VAL ever since its origins. Invitations extended to artists, to the public, to schools of thought, to social movement, to what makes the world at any given moment. And if hospitality is the heart of its philosophy, what the works in its collection often express is hostility.

Initially, in showing “Persona grata” at MAC VAL and at the Musée National de l’Histoire

de l’Immigration, we championed this universal, humanist notion. Today, we are subjecting it to the light of the real, like a contemporary subject being interrogated.

For the works in the MAC VAL collection and the way they are set out, the relations and meanings that grow up between them embody the ambiguity of the notion of hospitality, which today can be envisaged only in the light of its opposite, inhospitality. Like genealogists of the collection’s interiority, we can thus be caught up in the swift, staccato rhythm of works that speak to each other and agree, that follow the same thought or clash. And contradict each other. Such is the way of the world. Dual, contradictory, and terribly constrained, hospitality is combated in today’s society, just as it is itself a combat. If it implies peace restored at last, that means it was preceded by conflict, a war – economic, ecological or climatic – that must be fled.

“Persona grata?” a series of nuances...

Going from one stage to the next, voice is given to suffering and relief, disillusion and hope, renunciation, the survival instinct, complaints and homages, grievances and gratitude.

This exhibition revisits some great themes of “Persona grata” – the body and its disappearance, death, solitude, welcome, waiting, departure, mobility, wandering, conflict, urgency, frontiers, prevention, hindrance. At the same time, though, it takes visitors into

the history of hospitality, made up of contradictions, hopes and obstacles, of speech and murmurs and sometimes cries, whose echoes and chaos, let the light

through. The energy of life is in play here, too: being encouraged by what arises from a gesture, confronting the chaos without losing one’s footing.

The MAC VAL thanks its partners:

