

## « Situation(s) »

[48°47'34" N / 2°23'14" E]

**Group exhibition from June 30 to September 16, 2012**

Preview Friday, June 29 from 6:30 PM

Special press preview Wednesday, June 27

Curator : Frank Lamy

## Press release

From June 30 to September 16, 2012, the MAC/VAL (Museum of Contemporary Art of the Val-de-Marne) is holding a special exhibition bringing together works by ten artists focusing on questions including:

- How can the body be the focus of affirmation or resistance?
- How does one find one's place in the world as an artist, and in a larger sense, as an individual?
- How can artists position themselves as subjects in relation to the Other?

This summer, the MAC/VAL will explore these questions from the artist's perspective, reflecting upon mankind's environment, our construction of that environment in an increasingly homogenized world, and on the role of the artist. By coming to [48°47'34" N / 2°23'14" E] (the geographical coordinates of the MAC/VAL, in Vitry-sur-Seine) visitors will be able to follow several circuits centered on these questions.

### Variations on « Situation(s) »

« This exhibition will bring together creations by ten artists whose work is based on a suspension of the differences between private and public spaces. Notions of identity and identities and self-representation will come into play through evolving, performative, and collaborative works. Between appearing and vanishing, camouflage and acrobatics, the works also address questions of community, visibility, gender, colonialism, centers and periphery ... questions of affirmation and situation, of positioning, coming and going, images, bodies ... Ultimately, the exhibition invites the public to reflect upon the place of art, the nature of art and the role of the artist.

**Johanna Billing's** *You don't love me yet* (2002- ....), collects covers of Rocky Erickson's eponymous song, articulating the singularity and collective dynamic that exists between difference and repetition. **Jakob Gautel** retraces the past of his ancestor in *Maria Theodora* (1862/63 and 1996/97), tracing her movement between Indonesia and Germany in the middle of the Nineteenth Century. In an excerpt from the series « Notre corps est une arme » (« Our body is a weapon »), **Clarisse Hahn's** *Los Desnudos* (2011) tells the story of Mexican farmers who created a new form of protest to denounce the theft of their lands. Since 1998, **Matthieu Laurette** has put together a subjective cartography of the world in from the point of view of his professional activity as an artist, regularly proclaiming, « I am an artist » **Marcello Maloberti** works to make visible the invisible part of the actions that bring people together and weave social ties in carnival and processions. **Melanie Manchot** disrupts established representations of the body by asking questions about body consciousness in private spheres and festive exchanges with *Dance [All Night/Paris]* (2012) whereas her *Perfect Mountain* (2011) addresses the problems of mass tourism. The postcolonial, feminist perspective of **Aleksandra Mir's** *First Woman on the Moon* (1999), re-evaluates the history of space exploration, and in doing so, the history of territorial expansion in general. **Frédéric Nauczyciel's** works scrutinize the hiding and representation of the body and masculine identities in hostile environments. His *The Fire Flies, Francesca [Baltimore]* (2011) provides an immersed and attentive perspective of the black queer community of Baltimore. **Marylène Negro** seeks to find a place within the constant flux news media imagery (*Daymond* 2012) and paints a sort of collective, fugitive and fragmentary portrait with her *Et maintenant: 06 21 58 43 67* (2012). Since 1995, **Tsuneko Taniuchi** has challenged feminine stereotypes and clichés in his « micro-events ». With the series « Mariages » (« Marriages »), begun in 2002, she redefines the social pact itself. »

– Frank Lamy, curator of temporary exhibitions.

**Johanna Billing** was born in Jönköping, Sweden in 1973 and lives and works in Stockholm; **Jakob Gautel** was born in Karlsruhe, Germany in 1965 and lives and works in Paris; **Clarisse Hahn** was born in Paris in 1973 and lives and works in Paris; **Matthieu Laurette** was born in Villeneuve Saint Georges in 1970 and lives and works between Paris, Bogota, and New York; **Marcello Maloberti** was born in Codogno, Italy in 1966 and lives in the suburbs of Milan; **Melanie Manchot** was born in Witten, Germany in 1966 and lives and works in London; **Aleksandra Mir** was born in Lubin, Poland in 1967 and lives and works in London; **Frédéric Nauczyciel** was born in Paris in 1968 and lives and works in Paris; **Marylène Negro** was born in La Tronche in 1957, lives and works in Paris; **Tsuneko Taniuchi** was born in Hyôgo, Japan and has lived and worked in Paris since 1987.

### **Performances, Events, and a special interactive website for « Situation(s) »**

During the exhibition « Situation(s) » the MAC/VAL will also run an interactive website. This free, collaborative and continually available space will be a prolongation and echo of the artists' works in the exhibition. The website's content, which will be both shareable and changeable, is made up of a database focused on the exhibitions themes.

[Interactive exhibition website: [www.macval.fr/situations](http://www.macval.fr/situations) ]

**From 29 June to 16 September:** Carte blanche for the magazine-revue *Monstre*.

**Sunday 1 July:** « Micro-événement n°42 /Mariages, dans le jardin d'été », a performance by Tsuneko Taniuchi.

**Saturday, 15 September:** « C.I.R.C.U.S. » by Marcello Maloberti.

**Sunday 16 September:** « You don't love me yet », an event orchestrated by Johanna Billing.

MAC/VAL, Museum of Contemporary Art of the Val-de-Marne

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