

**Tania Mouraud, "AD NAUSEAM"**

**Exhibition from 20 September 2014 to 25 January 2015**

**MAC/VAL - Val-de-Marne Contemporary Art Museum**

**Preview Friday, 19 September 2014 at 6:30 PM**

**Special press preview Thursday, 18 September 2014**

**Curated by Frank Lamy**

## **Press release**

To start the fall season, MAC/VAL is presenting "AD NAUSEAM", a solo exhibition of Tania Mouraud, a major figure in French contemporary art whose art poses questions about the human condition. This exhibition will include work co-produced with Ircam-Centre Pompidou, monumental hangings on the exterior of the museum as well as throughout the city of Vitry-sur-Seine.

A monumental audiovisual installation will occupy the entire area reserved for temporary exhibitions, confronting the visitor with one of the artist's main themes, Man's destruction of his own history, evoked here by images of the mass liquidation of books in a recycling plant. The treatment of books as a testimony of history can also be understood as a metaphor for the destruction of thought. Like a paintbrush on canvas, Tania Mouraud uses the camera to capture reality and make a statement. The bulldozers grinding through books at a frantic pace cannot help but call up other images of History in the collective memory. Emptied of all human presence, these multi-layered images are projected on three screens that seem to overflow with unending disaster. This video, exhibited here for the first time, is accompanied by a sound installation realized by Tania Mouraud during her residence at Ircam from 2013 to 2014. This project emphasizes the aggressive nature of machines and reinforces the power and the tragic and destructive nature of Mankind's irreversible actions, actions condemned by everything that might be learned from past errors.

This assembly of 1500 samples of mechanical, industrial sounds reinforces the violence of the machine, creating the sonorous equivalent of its visual dynamic. Sound, used as a weapon, draws us into the image, just as the image draws us into the sound. With this video triptych nearly 35 meters long and 7 meters high and a sound installation spatialized on thirty speakers, the exhibition hall becomes a space in which the visitor lives, reflects upon, and has a sensory experience of a mechanized, industrial universe.

Tania Mouraud has also created work for the exterior of the museum, extending her writing process in a public space. For over twenty years, she has created abstract paintings in which she inscribes phrases that are more graphic than they are legible in a typographic style that has since become very recognizable. Although she began by using iconic and political phrases that could be understood as slogans, they have become increasingly intimate, sensitive, emotional, poetic, universal, akin to phrases of resistance. They are often reused in her performances.

Mouraud will take over the lateral facade of the museum, some forty meters long, with the phrase CEUXQUINEPEUVENTSERAPPELERLEPASSESONT CONDAMNESALEREPETER. (THOSEWHOCANNOT REMEMBERTHEPASTARECONDEMNEDTOREPEAT IT.) This sentence reminds Mankind of its lack of self-reflection in the face of History. It echoes the installation *AD NAUSEUM* shown inside the museum and provides an object for reflection upon our engagement as citizens faced with the state of our world. Another work, posted on the front of the museum takes up the expression

**MEMEPASPEUR (NOTEVENAFRAID)** that is also printed on the **MAC/VAL's** admission tickets. In addition, following in the footsteps of her work in Quimper in 1996, Tania Mouraud will occupy more than seventy billboards in Vitry-sur-Seine as part of the festival "Murs/Murs" ("walls/walls") beginning 3 October 2014.\* For this ephemeral act within the urban landscape, she will inscribe Martin Luther King's famous **IHAVEDREAM** in the heart of the city. By taking over spaces reserved for advertising, Mouraud blurs the our codes of communication and, as always, places the spectator, the passer-by, in a state of questioning before the

indecipherable, calling upon them to pause and take their time. It is as though she is reminding us that art can – to this day – be an act of collective resistance.

\* Mur/Murs - Week dedicated to urban culture in Vitry-sur-Seine from 3 to 12 October 2014.

Exhibition in co-production with Ircam-Centre Pompidou (Institut de recherche et coordination acoustique/musique), realized with support from the city of Vitry-sur-Seine.

Beginning 4 March 2015, the Centre Pompidou-Metz will present the first large-scale retrospective of Tania Mouraud's work, extending throughout the city of Metz during the summer of 2015. The Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne Métropole is currently devoting an exhibition to Mouraud.

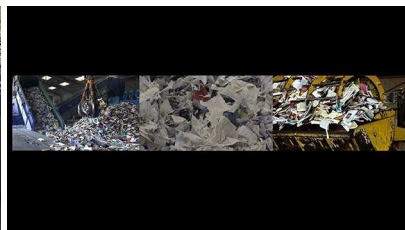
*Tania Mouraud, is a genre-breaking artist born in 1942 who, since the late 1960s, has created politically engaged art which questions artistic and social relationships and the responsibility of the artist within society and in the face of history. From her first conceptual works to her most recent videos and performances, Mouraud explores individual and social behavior. Always placing the spectator at the center of her process, she incites them to become aware of themselves and their relationship with the world. The subtlety of her work lies in her capacity to evoke destruction, disaster and the violence of the world without ever representing such subjects directly. Mouraud puts herself in the position of a witness and calls upon our senses without being pedantic or passing judgment. Although her work is multiform, and constantly shifting from media to media – painting, installation, photo, video, sound, performance – Tania Mouraud has never stopped questioning the human condition through three lenses in particular: feminism, racism, and consumerism – to the point of exhaustion and disgust. Ad nauseam...*



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1. Tania Mouraud, **CQNP SRLPSCALR**, 2014.  
 Digital print on stretched canvas, 5,05 x 43,68 m, MAC/VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine.  
 Produced by MAC/VAL - Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne.  
 Photo © Marc Damage, installed by Amandine Mineo. © Adagp, Paris 2014.

2. Tania Mouraud, **DREAM**, 2014.  
 Digital print on paper poster, 1,75 x 2,40 m. Voie Gluck, Vitry-sur-Seine.  
 Produced by MAC/VAL - Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne.  
 Photo © Thomas Louapre, installed by Amandine Mineo. © Adagp, Paris 2014.

3. Tania Mouraud, **AD NAUSEAM**, 2012-2014.  
 Sound and video installation on three screens and 27 speakers, (72-minute loop).  
 Co-produced by MAC/VAL - Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne and Ircam-Centre Pompidou. © Adagp, Paris 2014.

4. Tania Mouraud, **MPP**, 2014.  
 Digital print on stretched canvas, 5 x 5 m, MAC/VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine.  
 Production MAC/VAL - Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne.  
 Photo © Marc Damage, installed by Amandine Mineo. © Adagp, Paris 2014.

**Also at the MAC/VAL**

**"With and Without Painting"**

Exhibition of work from the permanent collection.

Find detailed information about our exhibitions and programs on the website of the **MAC/VAL**: [www.macval.fr](http://www.macval.fr) and on Facebook.

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