



MAC/VAL

MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN
DU VAL-DE-MARNE

On October 4 2007, Mac/Val will inaugurate its new exhibition at Vitry-sur-Seine : “Stardust or the Last Frontier”, about representations of the sky and the stars, self-image and images of the beyond.

Mac/Val's fall exhibition *Stardust or the Last Frontier* (October 4 2007 – January 13 2008) proposes a journey into space that, through the imagination of some forty-odd artists, becomes a “mirror of the world”.

Alexia Fabre (chief curator of the museum) and Frank Lamy (director of temporary exhibitions) have selected approximately sixty works that perfectly complement the permanent collection display, entitled “Being Present in the World”. Our gaze is lifted to the beyond, so as to better refocus on ourselves.

Frank Lamy adds: “Skies, planets, stars, the Milky Way, constellations, satellites, supernovas, the Big Bang, black holes, space-time, rockets, and astronauts are all protagonists of this saga. It's an attempt to describe the Beyond, and thus also the human condition. It's about fiction, masks, creating an image, but also about power, conquest, colonialism, and identity...”

The exhibition includes never-before-seen works by young French artists represented in Mac/Val's permanent collection – including Jacques Monory, Serge Guillou, Bernard Moninot, and Melik Ohanian – alongside works from other artistic scenes, including Great Britain, Canada, and Switzerland (see preliminary list below). “Stardust” emphasizes the universality of its theme, allowing the viewer to question

the idea of proper scale and to reflect on the self and its relationship to the world.

Although the topic is a serious one, the two curators, in keeping with the museum's mission, have deliberately emphasized different levels of interpretation, ranging from a light-hearted view of formal representation to fundamental metaphysical questioning.

They offer the audience a personal experience, a type of personal projection, and paid close attention to the educational materials of the exhibition.

“Stardust” is also an opportunity for the museum's chief curator to update the permanent collection. Two commissioned works by Shilpa Gupta and Malachi Farrell are added to the display, allowing her to re-emphasize her view of the consistency between the permanent collection and temporary exhibitions.

“Sputnik 1, the first man-made satellite, was launched at Baikonur on October 4, 1957,” note the two curators with a grin.

Preliminary list:

Guy Allott, Renaud Auguste-Dormeuil, Nicolas Baier, Davide Bertocchi, Pascal Broccolichi, Etienne Chambaud, Claude Closky, Julien Discrit, Serge Guillou, Vincent Lamouroux, Roberto Martinez, Philippe Mayaux, Paul McDevitt, Bernard Moninot, Jacques Monory, Olivier Mosset, Melik Ohanian, Roman Ondak, Bruno Peinado, Pipilotti Rist, Didier Rittener, Gwen Rouvillois, Stéphane Sautour, Bridget Smith, Jean-Luc Vilmouth, Mark Wallinger, Jane & Louise Wilson and Jordan Wolfson...

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