

MIXED

PARIS

ART: AN AIR FROM PARIS TO LOS ANGELES

The Air gallery in Paris questions the multiplicity of forms of narrative with "The destiny of the castles crossed", exhibition in residence at the gallery Castle Shatto of Los Angeles in the company of Guy de Cointet, Jef Geys or Dorothy Iannone.



A prominent figure on the contemporary Belgian art scene - he represents Belgium at the Venice Biennale in 2009 - Jef Geys articulates his work around three axes: his private life, his environment and his relationship to the outside world. Heir to the Bauhaus and conceptual art, the 84-year-old artist conceives his work according to the principles of equality between art and non-art. A meticulous archivist, he compiles photographs, conversations and ideas in the "Kampens Informatieblad", a newspaper that mixes his practice with the autobiographical story and blurs the boundaries of the intimate and the collective. In response to the elitism of exhibition catalogs, this newspaper has been distributed free of charge since 1971 at each exhibition of Jef Geys to establish a direct link between the artist and the public., whose very name plays on the link between writing and pronunciation, the work "Tribute to Chris Kraus with Mondrian colors" pays homage to the American writer author of the controversial novel I love Dick of which several highlighted copies are exposed. On an oiled and stretched Vichy fabric, two colored squares in blue and yellow summon the universal vocabulary developed by Piet Mondrian: the primary colors, the horizontal and the vertical.



In films, texts and paintings by the American artist Dorothy Lannone born in 1933 in Boston, the intimate occupies an equally prominent place. Committed against censorship, the artist who lives in Berlin today becomes famous in 1961 for his lawsuit against the US government which prohibits the disclosure of another controversial novel: *Tropic of Cancer* Henry Miller. "Survey of the world of love" according to Robert Filliou, the works of Dorothy Lannone explore the representation of the sexual union between the man and the woman. In light of personal interpretations of Buddhism, Tantrism and ecstatic Christian traditions associated with Baroque works of the seventeenth century, the sexual enjoyment that the artist continues to figure also suggests the spiritual enjoyment represented in the Ecstasy of St. Therese of Bernin. Halfway between pop art and art brut, his pictorial language evokes the naïve and colorful silhouettes of Aloïse Corbaz, whose work in three acts Cloisonné Theater made on a strip of paper 14 meters long narrate a love passion ending with the meeting of Love and Psyche. First graduated in literature before devoting herself to painting, Dorothy Lannone often instills literary references in the title of her works. In reference to the Icelandic sagas of the Middle Ages, his work "An Icelandic Saga" tells of his meeting with the Swiss artist Dieter Roth who became his lover during a trip to Iceland.

But it is undoubtedly in Guy de Cointet's work that the coupling between art and language is most intense. Born in Paris in 1934 and died in Los Angeles in 1983 where he moved in 1968, Guy de Cointet is passionate about invented languages, rebuses, mathematical games and systems for graphical representation of codes and symbols. His intricate intertextual works are exhibited in the world's greatest museums, from the MNAM in Paris to the MoMA in New York to the Tate Modern in London. From 1973, some of his paintings of letters and signs are transformed into elements of scenery for the skits he writes and directs. On comic and melodramatic background, these intrigues with the hermetic language require a decryption so that the spectator can grasp the meaning. Composed of a random succession of letters and numbers written in red, the series of serigraphs "CIZEGHOH TUR NDJMB" (1973) becomes the scenery and the script of the performance "The very brilliant artist HUZO LUMNST presents his new work: CIZEGHOH TUR NDJMB". In front of this series of thirteen serigraphs, on the concrete floor of the Château Shatto gallery, a TV broadcasts a recording of the performance. For fifteen minutes, a woman translates into several languages the sentences composed by Guy de Cointet. Nearby the invited artist Raul Guerrero exposes a portrait of Guy de Cointet





"The destiny of the castles", until 10 March. Galerie Air de Paris, in residence at the Château Shatto Gallery, 1206 S. Maple Ave. Suite 1030. Los Angeles. CA 90015

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