

Matti Braun
Salo
Solo exhibition

11 December 2010 – 12 February 2011

Guest curator: Hilke Wagner, director of the Kunstverein Braunschweig

Opening Friday 10 December 6:00–9:00 pm
Press preview 5:00–6:00 pm in the presence of the artist

On the opening night, a free shuttle will leave Paris (*Place de la République/metro République/exit Rue du Temple*) at 6:30 pm. Estimated return time 9:30 pm. No advance booking; seating subject to availability.

As part of Thermostat, a cooperative project involving 24 French centres d'art and German Kunstvereine, the Kunstverein Braunschweig is presenting a solo exhibition of Matti Braun (1968, lives in Cologne) at La Galerie. For his first solo exhibition in France, Matti Braun will present several groups of works inspired by cultural relationships between France, Germany, Senegal and Morocco from the colonial period up to the present.

The exhibition represents a new step in the research that Matti Braun began in 2009 in Rabat (Morocco) and followed with a journey to Senegal in the footsteps of German sculptor Arno Breker – controversial for his collaboration with Hitler and the Nazis – who worked for King Hassan II of Morocco and President Léopold Sédar Senghor of Senegal in the 1970s.

The title of the exhibition is characteristic of Braun's artistic strategy of exploring cultural and intercultural contexts and reintegrating historical and personal truths. "Salo" implies several layers of meaning: in France it has an insulting connotation; in Finland, which accounts for a part of Braun's biographical background, it means 'solitude' and is also the name of a town. At the same time, it is the title of Pasolini's last film, *Salò, or the 120 Days of Sodom* (1975), which makes reference to events in the northern Italian city of Salò shortly before the end of World War II, which enjoyed ambivalent fame as the capital of Mussolini's Italian Social Republic.

In Braun's oeuvre, perspectives are shifted and opened up, facts reassembled and combined to generate equivocal meanings. Braun's works range from smaller objects that in part suggest folk pieces – ceramics, batiks, or mouth-blown glass objects – to photography and space-consuming installations.

His approach for the most part condenses a mix of facts, meanings, images, and forms into a complex network of associations in which each object and each of the materials used transcends itself. Part of this is a search in which he pursues historical, cultural, or biographical contexts that are brought together by a process of association. Braun's telling and assembling of individual 'stories' impressively present the development of history as a fragile process of the cultural production of meaning. In doing so, his associations are always consciously speculative and unstable, without fixing contexts.

The subject areas and materials presented in the exhibition at Noisy-le-Sec are equally multifaceted. These include butterfly collections and a room displaying burnished brass plates. Braun has rooms filled with centimeter-thick screed, and illuminates the fluorescent paint on the wall with a black light, resulting in a surreal atmosphere. Another work is the ten-part series of black-and-white offset prints (*Pierre, Pierre*). It features motifs from different sources. The photograph of an African mask is a poster motif for the first Festival des Arts Nègres that took place in 1966 in Dakar and makes reference to the ambivalent character Léopold S. Senghor. As early as the thirties, Senghor, a lyric poet and Senegal's first elected president, was a formative influence on the worldwide *Négritude* movement, exemplary of the reciprocal and contradictory influences between Europe and Africa.

On the artist

Matti Braun, born in 1968 in Berlin, lives and works in Cologne. He studied at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main and at the Braunschweig College of Fine Arts.

He has had solo shows at the Ludwig Museum in Cologne, at the Liechtenstein art museum and at L'Appartement 22 in Rabat, Morocco.

He has presented a major solo exhibition at the Kunstverein Braunschweig until 14 November and is participating to the group exhibitions "Mental Archaeology" (with Thea Djordjadze and Jean-Luc Moulène) at the Kunstverein Nürnberg until 5 December and at the Crédac in Ivry-sur-Seine until 19 December.

He is represented by BQ (Berlin), Esther Schipper (Berlin), and galleria S.A.L.E.S (Rome):
www.bqberlin.de / www.estherschipper.com / www.galleriasales.it

Catalogue

La Galerie in Noisy-le-Sec, the Kunstverein Braunschweig and Walther König Buchhandlung are copublishing a catalogue in conjunction with the exhibitions, with contributions by Sarah Frost, Mika Hannula, Abdellah Karroum, Maguèye Kassé, Marianne Lanavère, Janne Marniemi, Rudolph Smend, Jakob Vogel, Hilke Wagner and Paola Yacoub.

Bilingual German/French

Related events

“Taxi Tram”: art tour around Paris

Visit the exhibitions “Salo”, Matti Braun at La Galerie, “Mental Archaeology“ (Matti Braun, Thea Djordjadze, Jean-Luc Moulène) at Le Crédac, Ivry-sur-Seine, “Channel TV“ and “The Wall” at National Centre for publications and printed art (Cneai), Chatou

> Saturday 11 December all day

www.tram-idf.fr / Tickets: 5 € / Booking mandatory on taxitram@tram-idf.fr

In partnership with d.c.a and French Institute, within the scope of *Thermostat, cooperation project involving 24 centres d'art and Kunstvereine*

Critical writing: "A time for art", guided by Gallien Déjean, art critic

> Two sessions: Thursday 13 and 27 January, 7:00 – 9:00pm

Advance booking required at florence.marqueyrol@noisyselec.fr.

Discussion about Matti Braun’s exhibition with Abdellah Karroum, Maguèye Kassé and Jakob Vogel

Abdellah Karroum is artistic director of L’Appartement 22 in Rabat. Maguèye Kassé teaches at Cheikh Anta Diop University at Dakar. Jakob Vogel teaches at Cologne University.

> Tuesday 18 January, 7:00 – 8:30pm, Bétonsalon, 9 esplanade Pierre Vidal-Naquet, 75013 Paris

www.betonsalon.net

Off-site events

Lecture by the filmmaker Mati Diop: "Senegalese cinema, from Djibril Diop Mambety until now"

> Thursday 3 February, 7:00 – 8:30pm, Roger-Gouhier Multimedia library, 3 rue Jean-Jaurès, Noisy-le-Sec

For children and parents

"Saturday Family"

The last Saturday of each exhibition, children invite their parents to a workshop based on the current show and a snack time

For children aged 6 to 12 with their parents

> Saturday 12 February, 2:30 – 4:00pm

Saturdays at La Galerie

• **Saturday Tea:** tea and a guided tour for adults

• **Art workshops:**

- for children aged 6 to 12, 2:30 – 4:00pm

- **New** For children aged 4 to 5, 4:30 – 5:15pm

Visuals for the press



AtoI
Installation shot, Kunstverein Braunschweig
2010
Photo: Peter Sierigk



"Salo" exhibition view
Kunstverein Braunschweig
2010
Photo: Lothar Schnepf



AtoI
Installation shot, Kunstverein Braunschweig
2010
Photo: Peter Sierigk



Pierre, Pierre
Installation shot, Kunstverein Braunschweig
2010
Photo: Lothar Schnepf

300 dpi pictures available upon request to Marjolaine Calipel
Exhibition views available from end of December
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Press officer

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Practical information

La Galerie
Contemporary Art Centre
1 rue Jean Jaurès
F- 93130 Noisy-le-Sec
T : + 33 (0)1 49 42 67 17
lagalerie@noisysesec.fr

Opening hours:
Tuesday – Friday, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Saturday, 2:00 – 7:00 pm
Closed from 20 December – 3 January

www.lagalerie.noisysesec.fr
(Site under construction)

How to get to La Galerie from Paris:
RER E (10 min) from Gare St Lazare
or Gare du Nord + 10 min walk

Admission free

La Galerie is a member of:
d.c.a., French association for the development of art centres (www.dca-art.com)
tram, Contemporary Art network, Paris/Île-de-France (www.tram-idf.fr)

La Galerie Contemporary Art Centre is financed by the city of Noisy-le-Sec, with the support of the Ile-de-France/Ministry of Culture and Communications Regional Cultural Affairs Board, the Seine-Saint-Denis Département and the Ile-de-France Region.



Noisy-le-Sec

This exhibition is part of **thermostat** initiated by:

www.project-thermostat.eu



d.c.a



With the support of:



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DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND
FÜR KULTURELLE ANGELEGENHEITEN
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DEUTSCH-FRANZÖSISCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

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