

Press release

Landscape Matter

Part of the 9th Art Grandeur Nature biennial in Seine Saint-Denis department

**with Lara Almarcegui, Katinka Bock, Angela Detanico & Rafael Lain,
EZCT Architecture & Design Research, Vincent Ganivet,
Beat Lippert, Gyan Panchal**

20 September - 23 November 2008

Exhibition tour at La Galerie and at the Cité Expérimentale de Merlan housing estate in Noisy-le-Sec.
Curators : Simon Boudvin and Marianne Lanavère

As part of “Shared Urban Zones”, the 9th Art Grandeur Nature biennial in Seine Saint-Denis and tying in with the Journées du patrimoine heritage festival in Noisy-le-Sec, La Galerie is presenting an exhibition/tour at the art centre and the nearby Cité Expérimentale de Merlan.

Curated in collaboration with artist Simon Boudvin, the “Landscape Matter” exhibition approaches architecture as a cyclical landscape of materials, signalling the transition from ruins to construction site. Leaving the overview to the planners, the exhibition opts for going to the heart of the urban and focusing on the actual substance of a city. The works reflect the origins of the building materials, their erosion and their future: some attempt to organise the chaos, others to disrupt its order. Drawing on issues historically typical of Land Art, the exhibition redirects speculation about the entropic landscape towards an urban materiality in constant transformation.

With its roots in Noisy-le-Sec, “Landscape Matter” begins with a complex reality in which the concept of heritage, particularly of the post-war reconstruction period, raises certain questions. At the same time, as part of the national Journées du Patrimoine festival, which this year in Noisy-le-Sec is focusing on the Cité Expérimentale (1945-1953) – a group of individual houses built in the Merlan neighbourhood – the artists Katinka Bock and Angela Detanico & Rafael Lain were invited to create works specifically for the Art Grandeur Nature biennial. They have worked with the utopian elements of the Cité’s architecture, its functionality and its temporary character, particularly in respect of the materials used.

Katinka Bock approaches matter in the light of its changing states and its capacity to conduct energy. For Art Grandeur Nature she effects a shift in the use of materials between La Galerie and the rusty metal of one of the houses in the Cité Expérimentale, endowing each with a new functionality.

Continuing their exploration of the subversion of signs, **Angela Detanico & Rafael Lain** set out to transform one of the walled-up houses of the Cité into a lighthouse, thus turning a neglected piece of architecture into a signal for a week end. To punctuate the itinerary between La Galerie and the Cité, they have also devised an alphabet made out of building blocks, which visitors can decipher and which creates a new form of spatial orientation.

“Landscape Matter” also features an itinerary connecting the Cité Expérimentale de Merlan to La Galerie. At the art centre, artists Lara Almarcegui, Vincent Ganivet, Beat Lippert, Gyan Panchal and the EZCT Architecture & Design Research agency were asked to present existing works or new ones relating to the order and chaos of matter.

In a text spelled out in adhesive letters on one of the load-bearing walls of La Galerie, **Lara Almarcegui** lists all the materials used in the building, in descending order of their weight in tons, ending with the total. By revealing the inner secrets of the building’s construction, the artist reveals its cryptic nature to the visitor.

EZCT Architecture & Design Research presents a chair generated by a computer program based on a genetic algorithm. The object on show is the outcome of a combinatory process in which 8 cubic-centimetre elements are transposed into wooden blocks.

For La Galerie, **Angela Detanico & Rafael Lain** update one of their *Pilha* alphabets with the same cinder blocks as one of the Cité Expérimentale houses, creating a code word which serves as a basis for the signing of the itinerary.

Beat Lippert looks into the source and future of a pile of gravel that he compares, using photography, to the mountains it originally came from. At the same time, a vitrine displays the gravel sorted by weight – a deliberately exaggerated reorganisation of matter which gives birth to a new landscape.

Vincent Ganivet spreads dust from a construction site on a vibrating board linked to a compressor, thereby evoking an entropic, endlessly shifting landscape. He also presents a floor mandala of traces of the setting up of the exhibition, using leftover offcuts, shavings and other scraps.

Katinka Bock reopens an old chimney in La Galerie and clads it with sheet of corrugated iron similar to those from the metal house in the Cité Expérimentale. On the floor of La Galerie, a mass of cobblestones dipped in tar reverses the road-making process to reveal its origin.

Gyan Panchal uses normally invisible insulation materials to create the beginnings of an architectural form. Further on, he marks on the wall all the chemical symbols from the periodic table, rendering them illegible through overlaying.

The artists of “Landscape Matter”

Lara Almarcegui

Born in 1972 in Saragossa (Spain). Lives and works in Rotterdam (Netherlands) / www.braakliggendterrein.nl

Katinka Bock

Born in 1976 in Frankfurt. Lives and works in Berlin and Paris / www.galeriewolff.com

Angela Detanico & Rafael Lain

Born in 1974 and 1973 in Caxias do Sul (Brazil). Live and work in Paris.
www.detanicolain.com / www.martineaboucaya.com

EZCT Architecture & Design Research

Philippe Morel (born in 1973), Félix Agid (born in 1979), Jelle Feringa (born in 1978). From French and Dutch backgrounds, they live and work in France. / www.ezct.net

Vincent Ganivet

Born in 1976 in Suresnes, France. Lives and works in Île-Saint-Denis / <http://vincentganivet.free.fr>

Beat Lippert

Born in 1977 in Lausanne (Switzerland). Lives and works in Geneva / www.beat-lippert.ch

Gyan Panchal

Born in 1973 in Paris. Lives and works in Paris / www.galeriefrankelbaz.com

Visuals available for press



Lara Almarcegui
Montagne des débris, 2005
Sint Truiden, Belgium



Lara Almarcegui
Matériaux de construction (Building materials), 2003
Exhibition view of "1:1 x temps, quantités, proportions et fuites" at Frac Bourgogne, Dijon, 2003



Katinka Bock
L'angle chaud, 2007
Heating system, copper, steel, rainwater
78 x 37 x 174 cm
View of "Baume wachsen und Ströme fließen: Wasser, Wärme, Monument", solo exhibition at Galerie Jocelyn Wolff, 2007
Photo by François Doury



Katinka Bock
Le sol d'incertitude (Ground for Uncertainty), 2007
14 sq. m, Paris
cobblestones, tar
View of "Katinka Bock, volumes en extension", solo exhibition at Centre d'art Passerelle, Brest, 2007
Photo by Sébastien Durand



Angela Detanico & Rafael Lain
Antes de mais nada (Pilha), 2003
Writing system, bricks
Courtesy Galerie Martine Aboucaya

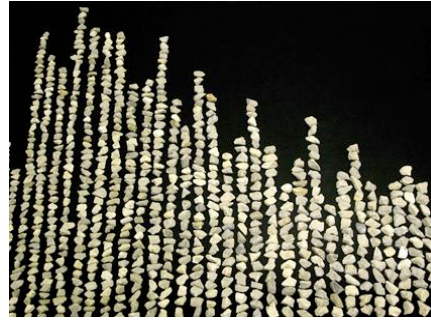


Angela Detanico & Rafael Lain
Pilha, 2003
Writing system
Courtesy Galerie Martine Aboucaya

High definition images are available on request. Contact: Mélanie Scellier
T : + 33 (0)1 49 42 67 17 - melanie.scellier@noisylesec.fr - lagalerie@noisylesec.fr



Beat Lippert
Métamontagne 1, 2007
 C-print, 50 x 70 cm
 Courtesy of the artist



Beat Lippert
Tri de 4 kg de gravier au décigramme
 (4 kg of gravel graded by weight), 2006
 Mixed media, 420 x 80 cm
 Courtesy of the artist



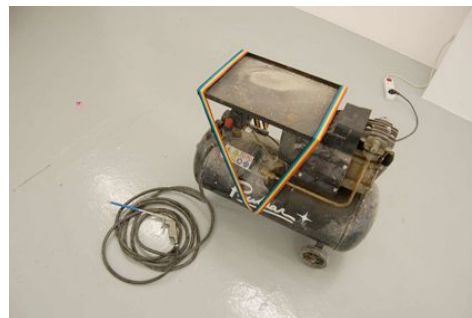
Gyan Panchal
*HHeLiBeBCNOFNeNaMgAlSiPSClArKCaScTi
 VCrMnFeCoNiCuZnGaGeAsSeBrKrRbSrYzrN
 bMoTcRuRhPdAgCdInSnSbTeIXeCsBaLaCeP
 rNdPmSmEuGdTbDyHoErTmYbLuHfTaWReO
 slrPtAuHgTlPbBiPoAtRnFrRaAcThPaUNpPuA
 mCmBkCfEsFmMdNoLrRfDbSgBhHsMtUunU
 uuUubUutUuqUupUuhUusUuo*, 2003
 Black marker
 Courtesy galerie frank elbaz, Paris



Gyan Panchal
nistan, 2008
 Extruded polystyrene
 260 x 35 x 62 cm
 Courtesy galerie frank elbaz, Paris



EZCT Architecture & Design Research
*Studies on Optimization: computational chair
 design using genetic algorithms*, 2004
 C++ programming, genetic algorithms and structural engineering: Hatem
 Hamda, Marc Schoenauer (INRIA Futurs - TAO project)
 Xd3d Software (visualisation and plotting tool using the finite element
 method. Public GNU license): François Jouve (Ecole Polytechnique)
 Mathematica programming: EZCT Architecture & Design Research
 © 2004
 Photo by Ilse Leenders



Vincent Ganivet
Compresseur, 2007
 Compressor, hotplate, dust
 Frac Île-de-France collection

Art Grandeur Nature 2008

« Zones Urbaines Partagées » / “Shared Urban Zones”

9th Contemporary Art Biennial in Seine-Saint-Denis Département

20 September - 23 November 2008

To mark the 9th Art Grandeur Nature Contemporary Art biennial, the Seine-Saint-Denis Département Council is inviting six cultural bodies to provide works and exhibitions addressing a single question: how do we live in and experience the city today?

In 20 artistic scenarios created specifically for the biennial and relating to the contemporary city, “Shared Urban Zones” looks at the forms of movement and mobility that bring life to our urban world.

Both newcomers and well-established bodies in the Contemporary Art field, the guest teams – from Le Forum at Le Blanc-Mesnil, Khiasma at Les Lilas, Les Instants Chavirés and Périphérie at Montreuil, La Galerie Contemporary Art Centre at Noisy-le-Sec, Synesthésie at Saint-Denis and Ciné 104 in Pantin – approach distinctive but complementary cultural issues. The works themselves – installations, sculpture, video, audio and multimedia art, film, performances – take place not only the usual venues, but also in heritage sites in six different parts of the Seine-Saint-Denis Département.

www.art-grandeur-nature.com

www.seine-saint-denis.fr

Information: +33 1 43 93 75 17 / bureauartsvisuels@cg93.fr

Press contacts for Art Grandeur Nature:

- National press: Yvette Sautour

Ph: +33 1 42 59 48 30 / 06 85 40 81 11 / presse_artgrandeurnature08@orange.fr

- Local press: Marjorie Faucompré

Ph: +33 1 43 93 94 26 / 06 19 50 93 56 / mfaucompre@cg93.fr

• Art Grandeur Nature 2008 Catalogue

Publication of a catalogue and a critical review (issue #19 of Synesthésie) planned for October 2008

• Taxi tram

Bus tour to La Galerie in Noisy-le-Sec and Le Forum in Le Blanc-Mesnil

> Saturday 4 October

Bookings from Tram art network: +33 1 53 34 64 15 / taxitram@tram-idf.fr (€5.00)



The Art Grandeur Nature Contemporary Art Biennial, “Shared Urban Zones” is organised by the Seine-Saint-Denis Département Council in partnership with Le Forum in Le Blanc-Mesnil, Khiasma in Les Lilas, Périphérie and Les Instants Chavirés in Montreuil, La Galerie in Noisy-le-Sec, Synesthésie in Saint-Denis and Ciné 104 in Pantin.

Events associated with the exhibition

- **Lighthouse, installation by Angela Detanico & Rafael Lain**

> Saturday 20 September and Sunday 21 September, 7:30-22:30pm

Maison Coignet, 3 avenue Général-Leclerc, Cité Expérimentale de Merlan in Noisy-le-Sec

- **Concert by Ouïe/Dire Collective, in partnership with Les Instants Chavirés, Montreuil**

> Saturday 27 September 7:00-8:30pm at La Galerie

www.ouiedire.com

- **Talk by Gilles A. Tiberghien on the entropic landscape**

> Saturday 22 November 6:00-7:30pm at La Galerie

Offsite event

- **“Fiac Cinéma” screening**

Artists' films presented by art centres during the Fiac art fair

> Friday 24 October 9:00-11:00pm at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris

Practical Information

The exhibition “Landscape Matter” is being presented at La Galerie, Contemporary Art Centre and at different points between La Galerie and the Cité Expérimentale de Merlan in Noisy-le-Sec.

Free map available at La Galerie.

Press Officer: Mélanie Scellier

T: +33 (0)1 49 42 67 17 - melanie.scellier@noisylesec.fr / lagalerie@noisylesec.fr

La Galerie

Contemporary Art Centre

1 rue Jean-Jaurès

F-93130 Noisy-le-Sec

T: +33 (0)1 49 42 67 17

lagalerie@noisylesec.fr

www.noisylesec.net

Tuesday to Friday: 2-6pm

Saturday and Sunday: 2-7pm

Entry to La Galerie is free

During the biennial, La Galerie is open on Sunday

How to get to La Galerie from Paris:

By RER: line E from Saint-Lazare/Haussmann or Gare du Nord (10 minutes), then 10 minutes' walk to the town hall

By metro + bus: line 11, get off at Mairie des Lilas, then take bus 105 (direction Mairie des Pavillons-sous-Bois), get off at Jeanne-d'Arc

By car: from Porte de Bagnolet, take the A3 toward Lille, exit Villemomble, follow Rosny centre commercial then Noisy-le-Sec centre ville. From Porte des Lilas, follow signs for Mairie des Lilas, then Romainville Place Carnot, then Noisy-le-Sec centre ville

La Galerie is a publicly funded contemporary art centre, receiving assistance from the City of Noisy-le-Sec, the Seine-Saint-Denis Département, the Ministry of Culture (DRAC Île-de-France) and the Île-de-France Region.

La Galerie is a member of:

tram, Paris/Île de France contemporary art network (www.tram-idf.fr)

d.c.a, French association for the development of art centres (www.dca-art.com)



Noisy-le-Sec