

**Press release**

## **À corps & à textes [Through Body & Text]**

**Orla Barry, Michael Dean, Clare Gasson, Falke Pisano,  
Reto Pulfer, Alexandre Singh, Richard T. Walker**

**Guest curator :**

**Francesco Pedraglio in the framework of La Galerie's annual residency for curators**

**2 June – 25 July 2009**

**Opening night** Saturday 30 May 6-10pm

**Press preview** 5-6pm

The artists will be present

*On the evening of the opening, a free shuttle to coincide with Kadist Art Foundation Danh Vo's opening will leave Paris (at 6:30pm Anvers tube station or at 7:00pm place de la République, Metro République, exit Rue du Temple). Return to Paris: 10:00pm. No reservation required, seating subject to availability.*

The exhibition "À corps & à textes" explores the contradictory yet creative relationship between the narrative, poetic and analytic potentialities of writing, investigating their wide spectrum of manifestations and their experimental results in the practice of seven international artists, most of them showing in France for the first time.

The conceptual framework of "À corps & à textes" could be described as a fragile equilibrium between coexisting strategies of employing written words as a motor for artistic creation: from an exquisite rarefaction of the art object through subjective narrations to an analytic investigation of language as a medium for regaining the physicality of the work itself. The heterogeneous pieces presented by the artists position themselves between these major attitudes: in the interstices of writing as 'dematerialising power' and in the folds of 'lettering as sculpting'.

The existence of endless poetic shadings, as countless as the narratives used by the artists in recollecting fragments of reality as a basis for their work, can transmute the most subjective everyday account into mythology and the most scrupulous analysis of a text into a physical object. Writing is the *fil rouge* that connects these extremes, creating a fluid field of encounters for the works on show.

This fluidity of meaning is mirrored by the title "À corps & à textes", which underlines the physical nature of the text – as a body in space, a body that occupies space – and, at the same time, concretely plays with the wittiness of a simple linguistic twist.

**Clare Gasson's** sound installation and **Orla Barry's** video are intimate researches into writing as an imprint of the artist's subjectivity, while **Alexandre Singh's** unprejudiced use of fictional and sci-fi narratives inside complex installations is the catalyst for the creation of his alternative history. **Michael Dean's** sculptures are an attentive exploration of the physical and typographic nature of writing, while **Falke Pisano's** video is a speculative application of written words as a tool for analysing the conceptual foundation of the art object. **Reto Pulfer's** work, with all its elements and their fluid combinations, is a performable mnemonic exercise in images and objects, which then is translatable into readable text, while **Richard T. Walker's** open letters to natural elements are a disarming comment on often-false romantic rhetoric through a relational psychology of interior/exterior.

Words are important, and the exhibition analyses the consequences of this assertion through **works and ephemera** that make written words their functional core. The result is a unique equilibrium of fictional mythologies and conceptual cosmogonies capable of laying bare the reasons behind the artists' need to write, write, write.

An integral part of "À corps & à textes" is the accompanying **programme of events** centred on the oblique relationships between writing and art making. Involving only Paris-based artists, the events are scheduled for different venues from Noisy-le-Sec to Paris, and include screenings, performances and readings (see the programme below).

## **The artists of "À corps & à textes"**

### **Orla Barry**

Born in Wexford, Ireland, 1969. Lives and works between Brussels and Ireland.  
[www.nadjavilenne.com](http://www.nadjavilenne.com)

### **Michael Dean**

Born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1977. Lives and works in London.  
[www.mdean1977.com](http://www.mdean1977.com) / [www.alessandrodemarch.it](http://www.alessandrodemarch.it) / [www.worksprojects.co.uk](http://www.worksprojects.co.uk)

### **Clare Gasson**

Born in Birmingham. Lives and works in London.

### **Falke Pisano**

Born in Amsterdam, 1978. Lives and works in Berlin.  
[www.edbprojects.nl](http://www.edbprojects.nl) / [www.balicehertling.com](http://www.balicehertling.com) / [www.hollybushgardens.co.uk](http://www.hollybushgardens.co.uk)

### **Reto Pulfer**

Born in Bern, Switzerland, 1981. Lives and works in Berlin.  
[www.balicehertling.com](http://www.balicehertling.com) / <http://artnews.org/retopulfer>

### **Alexandre Singh**

Born in Bordeaux, France, 1980. Lives and works in New York.  
[www.monitoronline.org](http://www.monitoronline.org) / [www.preromanbritain.com](http://www.preromanbritain.com)

### **Richard T. Walker**

Born in Shropshire, United Kingdom, 1977. Lives and works in San Francisco.  
[www.richardtwalker.net](http://www.richardtwalker.net)

## **Annual residency programme for curators at Noisy-le-Sec**

Since 2006, La Galerie has hosted foreign curators for an annual three-month residency, in order to support an exhibition in a French contemporary art centre and allowing a discovery of the Île-de-France contemporary scene (artists, professionals, other organizations...).

The annual residency for curators at La Galerie is receiving the backing of DRAC Île-de-France (Ministry of Culture).

Francesco Pedraglio is a curator born in 1981 in Italy, and now based in London where he cofounded FormContent with Caterina Riva and Pieter Vermeertel. Selected by La Galerie's board via a call for candidates to achieve his project "À corps & à textes", he will be in residence at Noisy-le-Sec from 6 April to 5 July 2009.

[www.formcontent.org](http://www.formcontent.org)

## **Programme of events around the exhibition "À corps & à textes"**

Performances during the opening Saturday 30th May

- > Reto Pulfer, 6:00 to 10:00pm, La Galerie / Alexandre Singh, 8:30pm, residency studio, Noisy-le-Sec

Off-site: performances evening with Alex Cecchetti and Marcelline Delbecq

- > Friday 26th June in the evening, place in Paris to be confirmed

Francesco Pedraglio invites curators and artists whom he met in residency : reading and screening evening

- > Friday 3rd July, 7:30 to 9:00pm, residency studio, Noisy-le-Sec

### **And also...**

Lecture discussion with Jérôme Poret, artist, about the links between sound and visual arts within the framework of " Films' music " festival in Noisy-le-Sec

- > Thursday 18th June from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, Roger-Gouhier multimedia library, Noisy-le-Sec

" A time for art " art criticism for all led by Sally Bonn, in partnership with the Centre de Philosophie de l'art, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University

- > In 2 sessions, Tuesdays 9th and 23rd June 7:00 to 9:00pm

## **OUT IN THE SUN / SUMMER IN THE ART CENTRES 2009**

28th May – 30th September 2009

The exhibition " À corps & à textes " is part of the event OUT IN THE SUN / SUMMER IN THE ART CENTRES 2009 initiated by d.c.a, the French Association for the Development of Art Centres.

Among the 44 original tourist itineraries dreamt up by art centres, La Galerie, Contemporary art centre will suggest from 2 June to 25 July to its visitors ideas to discover sites of contemporary architecture, landscape gardens, public art commissions, as well as the addresses of inventive restaurants and design hotels.

Let's discover the routes of the art centres from 28 May :

[www.flowersway.com/pleinsoleil2009](http://www.flowersway.com/pleinsoleil2009)

[www.dca-art.com](http://www.dca-art.com)

## 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

Tuesday to Friday: 2 - 6pm  
Saturday: 2 - 7pm

Exceptional open Sunday :  
Sunday 21st June 11am - 7pm

lagalerie@noisyselec.fr  
La Galerie website under construction

How to get to La Galerie from Paris :  
By RER E / Tramway T1 / Bus 105 ou 145

Entry to La Galerie is free

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

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

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This exhibition is part of the event  
OUT IN THE SUN / SUMMER IN THE ART CENTRES 2009"

swiss arts council  
**prohelvetia**

Reto Pulfer's participation in the exhibition "À corps & à textes"  
receives the support of PRO HELVETIA, Swiss arts council.



Noisy-le-Sec

**Available images for press  
In high resolution on request**

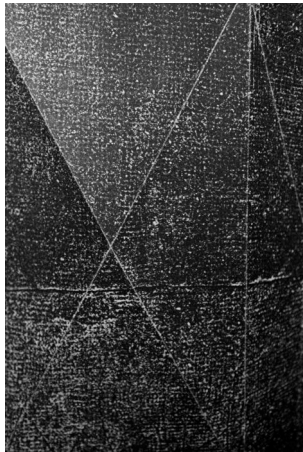
« À corps & à textes »  
La Galerie, Contemporary art centre  
Contact : Marjolaine Calipel  
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marjolaine.calipel@noisylesec.fr



Orla Barry, *Wideawake* (still), 2003  
Video, 25 min, colour  
Courtesy galerie nadjaVilenne



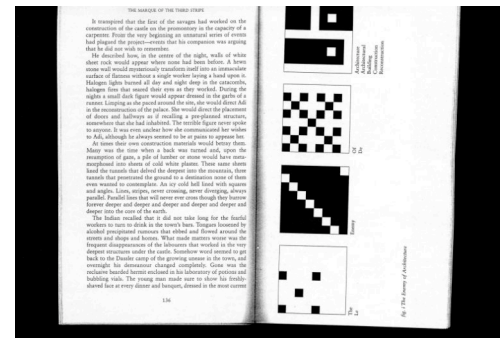
Clare Gasson, *The Washaway Road*, 2008  
Sound piece, stage, chair and light  
Courtesy of Gimpel Fils



Michael Dean  
*Yes (working title)*, 2009  
18 cm x 12 cm  
Archival light jet print  
Courtesy the artist and  
worksprojects, Bristol



Reto Pulfer, *Aquariumspiel in 128 Zuständen (PMG)* (detail), 2007  
Aquarium, wooden furniture, velvet,  
4 pictures b/w, ceramic  
Variable size (ca. 65 cm x 80 cm x 70 cm)



Alexandre Singh  
*The Marque of the Third Stripe*, 2008  
Inkjet print, 108 cm x 138 cm, pages 136-137



Falke Pisano, *Chillida (Forms and Feelings)*, 2006  
Double video on monitor, DVD, 14 min.



Richard T. Walker  
*Hesitant due to repeated achievement*, 2008  
c-type print, San Francisco  
Courtesy of the artist and Angels Barcelona