

Press kit



“Only the Lonely”
by Elina Suoyrjö,
curator in residence

Jonathan Baldock
Cécile B. Evans
Emma Hart

Essi Kausalainen
Nanna Nordström
Maxime Thieffine

From May 23 to July 18 2015

Opening on May 22
From 6pm to 9pm

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1. Season 2014-15: <http://ou-la-persistence-des-images.net/00js116mnlErl6seclactivellofficial&safe0isch.jpg>

La Galerie's new season is focusing on contemporary image uses in an era of images' accelerating circulation and rapid disconnection from their points of origin. The aim in trying to monitor their flow, reproducibility and modes of visibility, is to see how images persist and mutate in the course of transition from one medium to another. This exploration of their uses also raises the issue of subjectivity in our relationships with them. Where art is concerned, permutation of the roles of producer-transmitter and consumer-receiver is tending to redefine the traditional division between creator and spectator. In the wake of last season's spotlighting of "forms of affects", we shall be looking into not only images' affective charge, but also the possibility of considering them as pure events, independent of all relationship with a subject, all intentionality and all perceptual experience.

Cumbrous and unpronounceable in its totality, the season's title can be simplified down to "or-the-persistence-of-images" (although its full version does contain other elements). Its notation makes it look like the Internet address of an image; but in isolation, picked at random from among so many other possibilities, it stands for nothing but itself. More than a reference to any particular image, this title is the medium for an image. As such it points up three things at once: the persistence of images, a specific image and an actual physical medium.

2. “Only the Lonely”

“Only the Lonely” is a group exhibition that focuses on encounters. The exhibition addresses processes of making connections and disconnections, feelings of awkwardness and empathy, as well as group dynamics – the group consisting in this case of the artworks in the show that can be approached as characters. Featuring sculptural, video based and performative works by six invited artists, “Only the Lonely” explores the possibilities of applying artworks with agency and subjectivity.

There seems to be something in these artworks that we can recognize as human characteristics. Some of them embody awkwardness through defying social norms, while some appear humorous, displaced or fragile in their bodily existence. Some of the characters seek desperately to be a part of a group while others just don’t belong. Through recognition, these ambiguous feelings have the potential to become those of compassion and sympathy. The exhibition aims to affect the visitor by evoking curiosity towards the characters, along with warm-hearted feelings and laughter.

For the exhibition, the invited artists are creating either new versions of earlier installations or in a few cases altogether new works. The spatial installation becomes an essential part of the exhibition, as the works adapt to their new surroundings and to each other. The exhibition is a framework where a selection of apparent outsiders is brought together with the hopes of creating contacts within them, and also with the visitors of the show.

“Only the Lonely” seeks above all to focus on experiencing art on the layer of feelings and emotions – the layer of interpretation that might actually be based on immediate reactions and impressions. The exhibition offers a specific framework for encountering the artworks without demanding it is the only suitable framework for them.

The title of the exhibition is loaned from the melancholic love song by Roy Orbison from 1960. “Only the lonely, know the way I feel tonight. Only the lonely, know this feeling ain’t right”, Orbison sings in his fragile yet powerful voice. The song is all about a collective experience of heartbreak and loneliness, and about sharing this with those in the know. The lyrics never go deeper into explaining the feeling; it’s only the lonely that know exactly what the song is about.

Like the song, the exhibition plays with ideas on creating connections and looking for shared feelings. In the end it all comes down to questions concerning social exchange, communication and compassion we use in encounters with other humans. Could these skills be of use in encounters with nonhuman entities as well? Could we approach and encounter a work of art with a similar curiosity as another person?

“Only the Lonely” is accompanied by programmed events, including an invited text contribution by curator and writer Barbara Sirieix, which will be available at La Galerie’s website after the exhibition.

The artists

Jonathan Baldock (b. 1981 in United Kingdom) uses textile and other tactile materials to create his sculptural works, which seek their form in one way or another through human figures. Often the works manage to be simultaneously appealing and slightly disturbing as they combine connotations with homely bright-colored textiles and soft shapes (*Impassive Bean Bag*, 2014), and on the other hand uncanny erotic or violent insinuations (*Yellow Figure (after Hepworth)*, 2014).

Cécile B. Evans' (b.1983 in United States) work *AGNES (the end is near)* (2013/2015) focuses on an existential crisis of the character of *AGNES* – a spam bot, an artificial intelligence, created by the artist. The witty, compassionate and slightly mysterious *AGNES* lives at the Serpentine Galleries website, where we can communicate with her as she asks, tells and shows us things. Luckily *AGNES* also travels. Her stay at La Galerie during “Only the Lonely” will be written as part of the work’s history.

Emma Hart's (b.1974 in United Kingdom) audio-visual sculptures are often noisy and sometimes even rude, while always being humorous and sympathetic. The series *TO DO* (2011) is a collection of figures the artist describes as both birds and as her assistants. The sculptures appear as almost socially needy, craving for attention both from the artist and the audience through their appealing material appearance and sometimes through their voice.

Essi Kausalainen (b.1979 in Finland) works with performance, in which she explores our relationships with nonhuman elements and materials, especially with plants. Her interest is in different kinds of systems of existence, which she interprets and communicates through the body’s movements in her performances. For “Only the Lonely” Kausalainen is creating a new, site-specific performative work, which she will present in conjunction with a spatial installation. The performance takes place at La Galerie on Saturday the 6th of June.

Nanna Nordström (b.1981 in Sweden) works with sculptural installations she often groups as families. Her materials – such as plywood, dried rye bread, or stones – can be simultaneously rough and fragile, as they also associate with the everyday. By themselves the materials wouldn’t be much, but when assembled together, they become entities that create their own existence in a balancing act. For “Only the Lonely” the artist brings together characters from her recent installations, creating a site-specific group for the show.

Maxime Thieffine (b.1973 in France) has been working on the series *Les Comédiens* alongside other projects since 2011. The comedians are characters that emerge from various kinds of everyday materials the artist works with – not exactly leftovers, but rather compilations that appear as puzzle pieces fall on their places. The artist sees the comedians as players, almost as theatrical characters, which mix up things as they disrupt familiar patterns through their appearance, fragile nature or odd placement.

The curator

Elina Suoyrjö (b.1979 in Finland) is an independent curator based in London. Her curatorial practice evolves around working collaboratively and site-specifically with artists, often outside traditional art spaces. She holds an MA in curating art from Stockholm University and MAs in both art history and gender studies from the University of Helsinki. At the moment she is working on a PhD at Middlesex University in London. Her research discusses feminist approaches and strategies in curating contemporary art, with focus on affects and emancipatory energies.

Jonathan Baldock



Crane of the Neck, 2014
Performance still, in collaboration with Florence Peake
Chapter Gallery, Cardiff
Courtesy of the artist and Warren Orchard

Cécile B. Evans



AGNES (the end is near), 2014
Still shot, HD video
Courtesy of the artist

Cécile B. Evans



AGNES
Still from Serpentine Galleries
website
Courtesy of the artist

Jonathan Baldock



Yellow Figure (after Hepworth), 2014 and
Impassive Bean Bag, 2014
Exhibition view, Chapter Gallery, Cardiff
Courtesy of the artist and Warren Orchard

Emma Hart



TO DO, 2011
Installation shot from Matt's Gallery, London
Courtesy of the artist and Matt's Gallery

Emma Hart



Head Cleaner Bird, from the series *TO DO*, 2011
Exhibition view, Matt's Gallery, London
Courtesy of the artist and Matt's Gallery

Essi Kausalainen



Soil, 2015
Performance, duration 20 min
Frankfurter Kunstverein
Courtesy of the artist and Pietro Pellini / VG-Bildkunst
Bonn

Nanna Nordström



Exhibition view from Skånes Konstförening,
Malmö,
Courtesy of the artist and Johan Österholm, 2015

Essi Kausalainen



Reading, 2015
Performance , duration 20 min
kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga
Courtesy of the artist and Ansis Starks

Nanna Nordström



Detail from *A Sound Family Makes a Sound
State*, 2013
Bonniers Konsthall,
Courtesy of the artist and Linnea Svensson
Arbab, Stockholm

Maxime Thieffine



Comédien (F), 2014
Plastic sheet glued on invitation
card, thread and snap fastener,
nail, 21 x 15 cm
Unique work
Courtesy of the artist

Maxime Thieffine



Comédien (T), 2014
Sewn and suspended invitation
cards, enameled ceramic, felt,
dried plants, thread, nail, 36 x 15 x
2 cm
Ceramic produced by La Galerie,
centre for contemporary art of
Noisy-Le-Sec
Courtesy of the artist

Events

Performance

Saturday 6 June at 6 pm
by Essi Kausalainen

Exhibition tour

Saturday 6 June, 2 – 7 pm
Eastern Trail #21, exhibition tour by public transportation: Les Instants Chavirés (Montreuil), La Maison Populaire (Montreuil) and La Galerie
resa@parcours-est.com or +33 (0)1 43 60 69 72
Free

Reading

Saturday 20 June, 5:30 – 6 pm
Don't Talk (Put Your Head On My Shoulder)
A dialogue with the works in the exhibition: several voices interpret a work of fiction
by Barbara Sirieix
Barbara Sirieix is writer in residence at La Galerie in 2015

Concert

Saturday 20 June, 6 – 7 pm
Concert by the computer aided music class of the Noisy-le-Sec community conservatory of music and dance

Exhibition tour

Saturday 4 July, 2 – 10 pm
Hospitalities 2015: "House to the Power of Three"
Exhibition tour: La Maison Rouge, the Antoine de Galbert Foundation (Paris), La Galerie, and La Maison Populaire (Montreuil)
With contributions from artist Barbara Manzetti and author Philippe Artières
Hospitalities is a biennial event organised by the Tram network
4€/7€

Workshops

Free (booking required)

"I LOL ART"

For ages 13–15, Wednesdays 4–5.30pm

Creative Saturdays

2.30–4pm: Creative Saturdays for ages 6–12

4.30–5.15: Creative Saturdays for ages 4–5

La Galerie

centre for contemporary art in Noisy-le-Sec



Established in 1999, La Galerie is an art centre located in Noisy-le-Sec, in the inner Paris suburbs. Émilie Renard took over as director in 2013.

The La Galerie programme revolves around an annual theme at a rhythm conducive to experimentation and creativity. Spread over an entire season, the theme brings together the art centre's activities as a whole – exhibitions, productions, events, residencies, publication, arts outreach – in the form of a unified, ongoing project.

Our four annual exhibitions, each accompanied by a publication, are an opportunity to discover new works by both internationally recognised and emerging artists. We provide artists with practical assistance via residencies (one for artists, one for curators and one for authors) and production of new works, and highlight La Galerie's international emphasis with the publication of a free bilingual guide to each exhibition as well as invitations to guest curators from abroad. As part of each exhibition, the La Galerie team offers educational and cultural activities as well as outreach facilities. These activities are free of charge.

The programme at La Galerie defends a committed approach to art in which the artists' stances are clear and both the art centre team and visitors can make their points of view known. Working from the postulate that the art field is separate neither from the personal or the political, this approach takes into account both the art centre's territory, situated in one of mainland France's youngest “département”, and the context in which an artwork appears: the circumstances of its production and, more generally speaking, of its creator. Linking artistic issues to other affective, social and cultural considerations, the art centre is engaged in ongoing, evolving attention to the circumstances of production of artworks, as well as their circulation, documentation and reception.

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 for Paris/Île-de-France:
www.tram-idf.fr
- Arts in residence:
<http://artsenresidence.free.fr>

La Galerie 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 Department and the Ile-de-France Region.

The exhibition “Only the Lonely” has received additional support from the Swedish institute.

Visitor information

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Opening hours

Open from Tuesday to Friday from 2 to 6pm

Saturday from 2 to 7pm and by appointment

Closed Sundays, Mondays and public holidays

(1st of May, May 8, May 14, May 25 and July 14)

Closed from July 19 to September 27

Free admission

Follow us on Facebook:

“La Galerie centre d’art contemporain”

Getting to La Galerie

From Paris

– RER E, get off at “Noisy-le-Sec”
(10-15 minutes from Gare du Nord or Haussmann Saint-Lazare)

– Metro 5, get off at “Bobigny–Pantin–Raymond Queneau”
Then bus 145, destination “Cimetière de Villemonble”

Get off at “Jeanne d’Arc” ②

– Metro 11, get off at “Porte des Lilas”

Then bus 105, destination “Pavillon-sous-Bois”

Get off at “Jeanne d’Arc” ②

From Asnières, Bobigny, Drancy, Gennevilliers, La Courneuve

Tram T1, get off at “Noisy-le-Sec RER” ③

Leaving La Galerie

For Paris

– RER E, board at “Noisy-le-Sec”

– Via Metro 5:

At “Jeanne d’Arc” ④, take bus 105 destination “Église de Pantin”

Get off at “Bobigny–Pantin–Raymond Queneau”

– Via Metro 11:

At “Jeanne d’Arc” ⑤, Bus 105 direction “Porte des Lilas”

Get off at “Porte des Lilas”

For Asnières, Bobigny, Drancy, Gennevilliers, La Courneuve

Tram T1, board at “Noisy-le-Sec RER” ③

