



Ils traversent les pistes sur des morceaux de tissus pour ne pas laisser de trace
[They cross the tracks on pieces of fabric so as to leave no trace]
Theatre piece for children by Virginie Yassef, La Gaîté Lyrique, 7–15 April 2012
© Vinciane Verguethen

Virginie Yassef, “*Un mur de sable vient de tomber*”/A Wall of Sand Has Just Collapsed

Based on proposal from La Galerie team

1 December 2012 – 9 February 2013

Opening: Friday 30 November, 6–9 pm

Press preview, 5–6 pm, with the artist

On the evening of the opening a free shuttle leaves Paris (Place de la Bastille, opposite the Opera) at 6:30 pm. No booking required, subject to seating availability.

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Virginie Yassef
Un mur de sable vient de tomber/A Wall of Sand Has Just Collapsed

Virginie Yassef (b. 1970, lives and works in Paris) will be presenting in La Galerie, Contemporary Art Centre a group of new works, together with one from the Seine-Saint-Denis Departement Contemporary Art Collection.

"We might well lend the word 'Entstellung [distortion]' the double meaning to which it has a claim [...]. It should mean not only 'to change the appearance of something' but also 'to put something in another place.'"¹ Urged by Sándor Ferenczi in a letter to Freud in 1913, this duality could be applied to Virginie Yassef's exhibition and its creation of ephemeral forms resulting either from actual transformations or from transfers from one context to another.

"A Wall of Sand Has Just Collapsed" involves us immediately in a narrative situation: something has happened, right now, before our eyes – beneath our feet, almost. Although the title suggests an abrupt occurrence within the exhibition, what we actually see is a series of slow metamorphoses: in the video *Alloy* (2007) a child's patient handiwork turns a pile of small, geometrical shapes into a teetering monument; while at another moment sculptures are transformed into stage props by the skilful hands of another child. This presentation is the first of two: the second will take place at the Ferme du Buisson art centre (Noisiel, near Paris), where the child, his mutation accomplished, will become a dog...

Distortion in the sense of displacement can describe the "reading room" as a whole: from its furnishings to the reading matter provided and the *Scénarios Fantômes* (Ghost Scenarios, 2003–2012). The armchairs are replicas of self-assembly furniture, specifically Gerrit Rietveld's 1934 *Crates* series, whose title points up their mobility and reproducibility. What we have here is a kind of authorised update, a tagged historical quotation adapted for use in this "reading room". The reading matter, too, is made up of isolated quotations lifted from the press:

¹ Sándor Ferenczi, letter to Sigmund Freud, 23.06.1913, quoted in Richard J. Bernstein, *Freud and the Legacy of Moses* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), p. 15.

short sentences that immediately conjure up images hover on the wide, white pages of a newspaper, signalling the absence of the original context from which they have been irreversibly extracted. Another form of uncertainty and another reframing effect are to be found in the *Scénarios Fantômes* (Ghost Scenarios), series of one, two or three photographs whose shared title postulates a hypothetical narrative that interconnects the component images without providing the vaguest indication of how they are to be read.

This time these forms of suspension of meaning are matched by forms of physical suspension which affect the sculptures: whether governed by magnetic attraction or systems of counterweights – as in the aerial work *Airedificio* (2007) – all of them give rise to illusionistic effects linked to physical manifestations of opposing forces. In this way the instability of the wall of sand, which we imagine as having spread itself across the floor in all its granular infinity, affects the exhibition as a whole. Thanks to these shifts and transient states the works remain indeterminate, impending, suspended, just like the figure of the child who functions here as a promise, a factor for mobility and distortion as he himself mutates toward the animal state. This phenomenon of transition embraces the entire exhibition at La Galerie, which is itself a stepping stone towards another exhibition at the Ferme du Buisson art centre (21 April–27 July 2013), and so implies, as if in a subtext, the words "to be continued".

— *Émilie Renard*

The artist

Virginie Yassef was born in 1970. She lives in Paris.
She is represented by Galerie Georges-Philippe et Nathalie Vallois, Paris.
www.galerie-vallois.com

Solo exhibitions (selection)

2013: Espace Croisé Centre for Contemporary Art, Roubaix, France
2012: *Le signe singe*, La Ferme du Buisson, Noisiel, France (with Julien Bismuth)
2011: *Dialogic*, Parcours Saint-Germain, Hôtel Lutetia, Paris, France (avec Julien Bismuth)
2010: *Coûte que coûte il nous faut atteindre la rivière de la queue coupée*, Le Grand Atelier, Clermont Metropolis School of Art, Clermont Ferrand, France*
Pour le réveiller, il suffit d'un souffle, Galerie GP & N Vallois (Project Room), Paris, France
2009: *Le Millième Moustique*, Galerie GP & N Vallois, Paris, France
2008: *Some Magical Clangs*, CRAC Alsace, Altkirch, France
La seconde est partie la première, curator Fabienne Fulchéri, Jeu de Paume, Paris, France
Alloy, Galerie Fi:af, New York

Group exhibitions (selection)

2012: *Touche à tout*, Bollag, Space Basel, Basel, Switzerland
2011: *Petite Chasse au Snark*, Frac Languedoc Roussillon, Montpellier, France
2000–2011: *Soudain, Déjà*, curator Guillaume Désanges, Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France
Nuit Blanche, curators Alexia Fabre and Franck Lamy, Paris, France
Weltraum. Kunst und ein Traum – Space. Art and A Dream, curator Catherine Hug, Kunsthalle, Vienna, Austria
2010: *Qui es-tu Peter ?*, curators Joanna Chevalier and Hervé Mikaeloff, Espace Culturel Louis Vuitton, Paris, France
Aires de jeux, La Police ou les corsaires, curator Vincent Romagny, Le Quartier, Quimper
Everyday(s), curators Fabienne Bernardini and An Schiltz, Casino, Luxembourg
Auteur/Amateur, curator Julien Bismuth, Layr Wuestenhagen Contemporary, Vienna, Austria
Chemin faisant... A Walk Around the Block, La Ferme du Buisson, Noisiel, France
Le Carillon de Big Ben, Le Crédac Centre for Contemporary Art, Ivry-sur-Seine, France
Collège Robinson, curator Cécilia Bekanovic, Les Ateliers des Arques, Les Arques, France
2009: *La Force de l'art 02*, curators Jean-Louis Froment, Jean-Yves Jouannais and Didier Ottinger, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Dreamtime, Les Abattoirs and Grotte du Mas d'Azil, Toulouse, France
Le travail de rivière, Le Crédac Centre for Contemporary Art, Ivry-sur-Seine, France
Ce qui demeure est le futur, curators Catherine Francblin, Barnard Marcadé and Bénédicte Ramade, Maison de la culture, Amiens, France*

Visuals of the works

In 300 dpi on request:
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T: +33 (0)1 49 42 67 17
Exhibition views available December 2012



Pour la réveiller, il suffit d'un soufflé
[Just a breath will wake her up], 2008
Mixed media: wood, roughcast, screws,
sound system, 6 wooden chairs
Elephant: 230 x 400 x 150 cm
Chairs: each 55 x 80 x 54 cm
Courtesy Galerie GP & N Vallois
Exhibition view, *Wake Up, Please*,
Le Quartier, Quimper, France
(3 July – 25 October 2009)
Collection Frac Languedoc-Roussillon
© Dieter Kik



*Il y a 140 millions d'années,
un animal glisse sur une
plage fangeuse du Massif
Central [140 million years
ago, an animal slips on a
muddy beach in the Massif
Central], 2009*
Solid polystyrene, roughcast
800 x 350 x 200 cm
Edition of 1
Courtesy Galerie GP & N
Vallois
Exhibition view, *La Force de
l'Art 02*, Grand Palais, Paris,
2009/Ministry of Culture and
Communication
© Didier Plowy/CNAP



Bird's-eye View, 2010
Polystyrene, acrylic resin
230 x 82 x 82 cm
Courtesy Galerie GP & N Vallois
© Vincent Blesbois



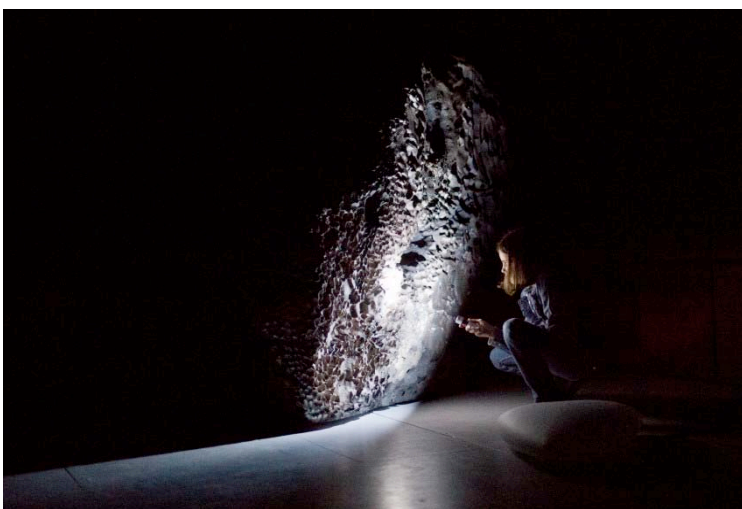
L'arbre/The Tree
(in collaboration with Julien Prévieux)
2009
Super-8 film transferred onto DVD
7 min
Edition of 4 + 2 artist's proofs
(camera: Aurélie Godard)
Courtesy Galerie GP & N Vallois



Airedificio, 2007
Mixed media
191 x 240 x 210 cm
Courtesy Galerie GP & N Vallois
© Aurélie Godard



Scénario Fantôme 80/Ghost Scenario 80, 2010
2 C-prints
Each 6 x 9 cm
Courtesy Galerie GP & N Vallois



Ils traversent les pistes sur des morceaux de tissus pour ne pas laisser de trace/ They cross the tracks on pieces of fabric so as to leave no trace
Theatre for children, 30 min, La Gaîté Lyrique
© Vinciane Verguethen



Passe Apache/Apache Pass, 2005
Resin, wood, metal
246 x 246 x 100 cm (with door frame)
FRAC Ile-de-France Collection, Paris
Courtesy Galerie GP & N Vallois
© Stéphane Thidet

Around the Virginie Yassef exhibition

All La Galerie activities are free

On n'a jamais vu de chien faire, de propos délibéré, l'échange d'un os avec un autre chien/No one has ever seen a dog deliberately exchange a bone with another dog

Mutant theatre by Virginie Yassef

Coproduction La Galerie, Noisy-le-Sec/La Ferme du Buisson Centre for Contemporary Art, Noisiel

> Saturday 26 January at 6 pm at La Galerie (first part)

> Sunday 2 June at 4 pm at La Ferme du Buisson (second part) – *As part of the Le signe singe exhibition by Julien Bismuth and Virginie Yassef (21 April–27 July) at La Ferme du Buisson Centre for Contemporary Art*

Free buses (advance booking required):

From La Ferme du Buisson to La Galerie: Saturday 26 January at 4:30 pm

bookings: contact@lafermedubuisson.com/01 64 62 77 77

From La Galerie to La Ferme du Buisson: Sunday 2 June at 3 pm

booking: celine.laneres@noisylesec.fr/01 49 42 67 17

Off-site events

Ricochets: an art stroll through Noisy-le-Sec

In parallel with Virginie Yassef's exhibition at La Galerie: discover works from the Seine-Saint-Denis Departement Contemporary Art Collection in various cultural venues and the municipal Social Welfare Centre.

> 1 December 2012 – 9 February 2013

Evening screening

Virginie Yassef will present the recently restored 3D version of Jack Arnold's *Creature from the Black Lagoon* (1954).

The screening will open with Virginie Yassef's films *WOW*, 2005, 6' and *Et le mur lui obéit*, 2004, 4'30''.

> Friday 11 January 2013 at 8:30 pm, Le Trianon cinema

71 Place Carnot, 93230 Romainville/www.cinematrianon.fr

For kids: Saturday art workshops

Free – just register!

• 4–5 year olds

All on Our Own: every Saturday, 4:30 – 5:15 pm

With parents (plus a free snack!): Saturday 9 February 2013, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

• 6–12 year olds

All on Our Own: every Saturday, 2:30 – 4 pm

With parents (plus a free snack!): Saturday 9 February 2013, 2:30 – 4:30 pm

La Galerie

Centre d'art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec



Established in 1999, La Galerie is a state-subsidised art centre in a former notary's residence in central Noisy-le-Sec, in the inner Paris suburbs.

Émilie Renard took over as director in September 2012.

La Galerie offers a very broad public a year by year programme revolving around exploration of a particular theme. **Four exhibitions annually**, each accompanied by a publication, are an opportunity to discover new work by internationally recognised artists and contributions from emerging artists as well.

Providing artists with practical assistance via residencies and production of new works, La Galerie highlights its international emphasis with the publication of a **free bilingual journal to each exhibition** and, since 2006, invitations to **guest curators from abroad**.

As part of each exhibition, the La Galerie team offers **educational and cultural activities** as well as liaison facilities. A **mediator** providing help and guidance for visitors is present full-time in the exhibition space and a documentation space offers useful back-up material.

All La Galerie activities are **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 for Paris/Île-de-France: www.tram-idf.fr

La Galerie Centre for Contemporary Art 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 Departement and the Ile-de-France Region.

This exhibition is supported by Galerie Georges-Philippe et Nathalie Vallois.

The exhibitions *Un mur de sable vient de tomber* and *Ricochets* are presented as part of the culture and heritage cooperation agreement between the Seine-Saint-Denis Departement and the City of Noisy-le-Sec.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Press officer

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La Galerie

Centre for Contemporary Art

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www.noisylesec.net

Opening hours

Tuesday – Friday, 2–6 pm

Saturday 2–7 pm and by appointment

Closed Sundays, Mondays and public holidays

And from 23.12.2012 to 6.01.2013

Admission free

How to get to La Galerie:

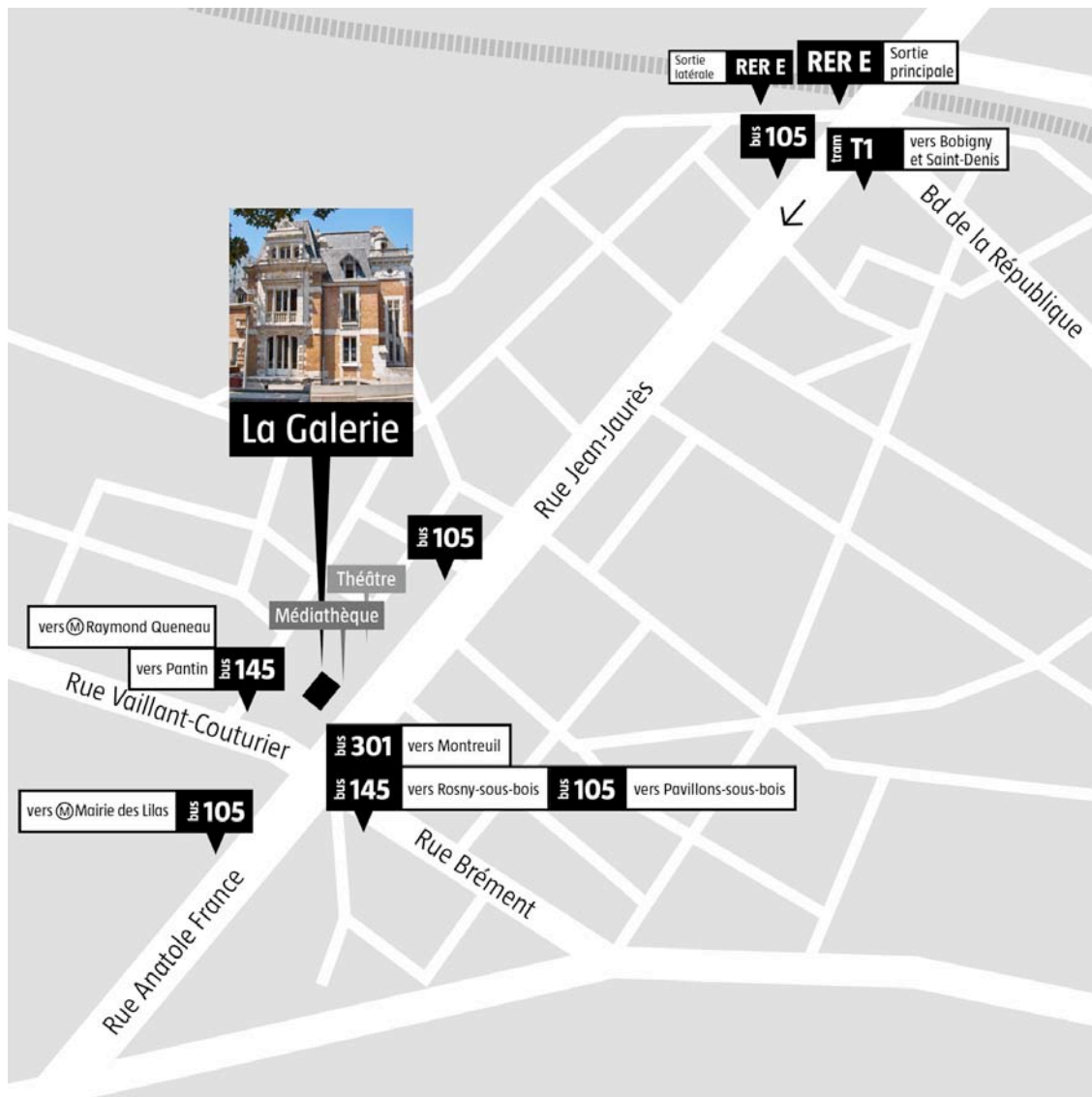
RER E from St Lazare/Haussmann or Gare du Nord/Magenta (10 minutes),
Get off at "Noisy-le-Sec", then 10 minutes walk.

Tram T1: Get off at "Noisy-le-Sec RER"

Bus 105, 145 or 301: Get off at "Jeanne d'Arc"

Car: From Porte des Lilas, follow the signs for Romainville

From Porte de Bagnolet, A3 freeway, Villemomble exit, follow the signs for Rosny
Centre Commercial



SAVE THE DATE/COMING EXHIBITIONS

High Creative Tension

Art from the Saturday workshops for children

19 February – 2 March 2013

Opening: Tuesday 19 February 2013, 4–8 pm

Lamarche & Ovize + guests

Pierre–Olivier Arnaud, Cédric Alby, Marie–Charlotte Chevalier et Benjamin

Hochart, Guillaume Constantin, Aurélie Godard, Emmanuelle Lainé, Juliette

Maï–Poirot, Nicolas Momein, Laëtizia Paviani, Bettina Samson, Maxime Thieffine, Julien Tibéri,

Céline Vaché–Oliviéri, Marie Voignier et Vassilis Salpistis

And Florence Marquayrol (in charge of Publics at La Galerie), Allion Alexandra Claudia Amaral

Darroux Josselyne Dauchez Stéphane Dejussieu Jean–Philippe Ducoloner Déduit Aurélie Dupont

Élisabeth Fingonnet Emmanuelle Gaillard Malthet Philippe Lëila Matisse Marie–Arlette Matuszak

Christiane Mirna Martinez–Griffet

+ Members of the choir from Noisy–le–Sec Conservatory, Noisy–le–Sec team parks and people attending social–linguistic workshops and Erwan Bineau, Saadia Courtillat, Yves Houllier, Céline Laneres, Stéphanie Richard, Assia Saci, Jean–François Thirirot from Fortuna association, show creations and historical evocation.

Exhibition including the works produced during their residency

16 March – 11 May 2013

Opening: Friday 15 March, 6–9 pm

Exhibition presented by the resident curator from abroad

25 May – 13 July 2013

Opening: Friday 24 May, 6–9 pm



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