

**Press release**

## “On the Surface of the Infinite”

**Becky Beasley, Etienne Chambaud, Graham Gussin,  
Hugo Pernet, Kathrin Sonntag**

**21 February – 18 April 2009**

**Opening night** Friday 20 February 6-9pm

**Press preview** 5-6pm

The artists will be present

*On the evening of the opening, a free shuttle will leave Paris (Place de la République, Metro République, exit Rue du Temple) at 7:00pm. Return to Paris: 9:30pm. No reservation required, seating subject to availability.*

“On the Surface of the Infinite” explores the connections between abstraction and the imaginary dimension through work – created especially for the exhibition or being shown for the first time in France – by five European artists: Becky Beasley, Etienne Chambaud, Graham Gussin, Hugo Pernet and Kathrin Sonntag. Taking as starting point a major video installation created in 2001 by British artist Graham Gussin, the exhibition embraces different forms – painting, collage, sculpture, slideshow, photography and video – in five separate spaces, as each artist engages dialogue through a distinctly personal approach.

Whether suggestive of a theory about the geometry of the universe or simply of a science fiction novel, the exhibition’s title immediately asserts the narrative and imaginative scope of the twenty-five works gathered together here. More than connections between the hereafter and the world of appearances, “On the Surface of the Infinite” proposes a possible artistic link between two contradictory terms: infinity, a space-time historically infused with romanticism, and surface, which suggests the perceived coldness of Minimalism.

In a reassessment of a history of abstraction stretching from monochrome to the forms of Minimalist sculpture, the works in the exhibition certainly include "surfaces", but their apparent opacity is in marked contrast with their evocative power. At once closed and open, they take on a kind of silence which renders them all the more mysterious. Like any work of art, they espouse a degree of hermeticism, which opens them up to a range of interpretations.

**Becky Beasley's** works take the form of boxes or shelves whose content, replaced by a bottomless, black, reflective surface, remains to be imagined. In **Graham Gussin's** work, monochrome becomes a screen, encouraging mental projection, while for **Hugo Pernet** it heralds a possible image to come after a conjectured end of painting. **Etienne Chambaud** creates tautologies that repeatedly reinterpret his own drafts and works, and **Kathrin Sonntag** builds images within images out of photographic archives and everyday objects whose abstract quality signals a kind of strangeness.

Their contemporary character means that these works deliberately bring the infinite to the surface, that is to say to form – to the level of appearances in the real world. However taking this surface as an integral element of the work in no way reduces its scope. An opaque border, the surface can also mutate into a screen, a mirror or a black hole. Made of such “loaded” abstractions, “what we see” opens out on to fresh perceptions.

## **The artists**

### **Becky Beasley**

Born 1975 in Portsmouth, Great Britain. Lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium.  
[www.beckybeasley.com](http://www.beckybeasley.com)  
[www.laurabartlettgallery.com](http://www.laurabartlettgallery.com)  
[www.officebaroque.com](http://www.officebaroque.com)

### **Etienne Chambaud**

Born 1980 in Mulhouse, France. Lives and works in Paris.  
[www.lucilecorty.com](http://www.lucilecorty.com)  
[www.medium.li](http://www.medium.li)

### **Graham Gussin**

Born 1960 in London. Lives and works in London.  
[www.grahamgussin.co.uk](http://www.grahamgussin.co.uk)  
[www.pedrocera.com](http://www.pedrocera.com)

### **Hugo Pernet**

Born 1983 in Paris. Lives and works in Noisy-le-Sec, currently in residence at La Galerie.

### **Kathrin Sonntag**

Born 1981 in Berlin. Lives and works in Berlin.  
[www.galeriekamm.de](http://www.galeriekamm.de)

## **Hugo Pernet's residency at La Galerie**

Hugo Pernet has been in residence at La Galerie in Noisy-le-Sec since July 2008 and is staying until 5 April 2009. Born in 1983, he is a graduate of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Besançon, France. All Hugo Pernet's works on display in “One the Surface of the Infinite” were created during his residency.

## Available images for press



Hugo Pernet, *Double-négatif*, 2009  
Acrylic on canvas, each 100 x 100 cm  
Production: La Galerie, Contemporary Art Centre  
in Noisy-le-Sec  
© Hugo Pernet



Hugo Pernet, *4'33"*, 2008  
Acrylic on canvas, each 27 x 19 cm  
Production: La Galerie, Contemporary Art Centre  
in Noisy-le-Sec  
© Hugo Pernet



Etienne Chambaud, *L'infini, Exclusion  
de la Tautologie n°6*, 2008  
Mirror sheets and wood, variable dimensions  
Courtesy Galerie Lucile Corty  
© Etienne Chambaud



Graham Gussin, *Remote Viewer* (detail) 2001  
Two screen installation, each a 30 min. loop  
with sound  
Commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella  
© Graham Gussin



Becky Beasley, *Trap*, 2006  
141 x 178 cm, seamed matt gelatin silver print,  
archival linen tape, eyelets  
Courtesy Office Baroque Gallery and the artist  
© Becky Beasley



Kathrin Sonntag  
*Mitnacht* (detail), 2008  
81 slides, slide projector,  
variable dimensions  
Courtesy the artist and  
Galerie Kamm, Berlin  
© Kathrin Sonntag

## Events associated with the exhibition “On the Surface of the Infinite”

### Discussion of the works, with La Galerie director Marianne Lanavère and curator/art critic Yoann Gourmel

> Saturday 18 April 6:00 to 7:30 pm at La Galerie

### New : “A Time for Art” – art criticism workshop for all

In partnership with the Centre de Philosophie de l’Art, Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne University

> Thursday 12 and 26 March 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Admission free, but advance booking required

### Hugo Pernet invites the online poetry journal *myopies*:

• **Poetry readings/performances** by Arno Calleja, Guillaume Fayard, Anne Kawala, Pierre Ménard, Hugo Pernet, Esther Salmona and Dorothée Volut

> Saturday 4 April 6:00 to 7:30 pm at La Galerie

### • Poetry audio tour

> During the exhibition: MP3s available on request at the reception

[www.myopies-revue.com](http://www.myopies-revue.com)

### Sunday Special during the Télérama weekend

> Sunday 22 March 2:00 to 7:00 pm at La Galerie

Workshop: Introduction to Contemporary Art

> Sunday 22 March 3:00 to 4:30 pm at La Galerie

### Off-site: FRAC Ile-de-France collection at Théodore Monod Secondary School, Noisy-le-Sec

An exhibition echoing “On the Surface of the Infinite” with works from the Ile-de-France FRAC collection by Carlos Cairoli, Jean-Marc Cerino, Livia Deville, Jérôme Dupin, Axel Hütte, Luis Marsans, Corinne Mercadier and Michel Sauer.

> 11 March – 11 May, Secondary School “Lycée Théodore Monod” in Noisy-le-Sec

Visits by appointment

## Practical Information

### Press Officer: Mélanie Scellier

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### 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](mailto:lagalerie@noisylesec.fr)

Tuesday to Friday: 2 - 6pm

Saturday: 2 - 7pm

**Entry to La Galerie is free**

La Galerie website under construction

### 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

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))



Noisy-le-Sec