

Night Visions

Dominique Blais, Sophie Bueno-Boutellier, Jason Dodge, Spencer Finch, Francesco Gennari, Anne-Laure Sacriste, Niels Trannois

8 March - 10 May 2008

Press preview Friday 7 March from 5 - 6pm

Opening Friday 7 March from 6 - 9pm
in the presence of the artists

On the evening of the private view a free shuttle will leave Paris (Place de la République, Metro République, exit Rue du Temple) at 18:30. Return to Paris at 21:30. No reservation required, seating subject to availability.

Approaching darkness as both an extreme perceptual experience and a symbolic territory, the exhibition "Night Visions" represents attempts by six artists to give visible expression to night without resorting to direct representation.

Darkness is firstly considered as an ambivalent perceptual state which the artists, eschewing literal transcription, have opted for approaching tangentially or by implication.

The exhibition opens with a black pastel drawing suggestive both of tentative handprints and a solar eclipse: in his account of a moment spent in a specific place, **Spencer Finch** asks us to share his experience of the cave at Lascaux. Further on, in front of a window, shifting sunlight makes play with shadow through a line of glasses containing water tinted with varying quantities of grey ink.

Paradoxically, light plays an important part in this exhibition. On the floor, an installation by **Jason Dodge** – an accumulation of bulbs, neon tubes, candles and related objects – makes oblique reference to the darkness inside a house stripped of its sources of illumination. Based on the displacing and tweaking of found objects, Dodge's work is marked by an economy of means that accentuates its evocative power. A plaque on the wall points out that one of the visitors is just back from the South Pole, a zone sunk in darkness during the exhibition period. At another point an everyday cardboard box serves as a plinth for a stuffed owl, inside which rubies have been hidden. As a sign of a passage from death to life, the work reverses the mechanics of vision, as if this nocturnal creature can still see, within.

Partaking in this dialectical approach in which darkness and light coexist, **Dominique Blais's** installation – produced during his residency at Noisy-le-Sec – is a chandelier whose light has been replaced by sound. In its interplay of correlations between the invisible and the inaudible, the sculpture emits in the half-light residual noises recorded during downtime in La Galerie, like a ghostly aural imprint of the building.

Situated at the threshold of perception, the works on show use the word "visions" in its dual sense. The result of projections of the unconscious – reminiscences, dreams, hallucinations – their shapes can even be seen as visions reviving a Romantic, Symbolist vocabulary.

In **Anne-Laure Sacriste's** paintings on wood, light seems to have been absorbed and damped down by the support, as cut-ups of some fantastic landscape surface out of the opacity of an immense black panel. Moving on, the visitor comes upon a kind of after-image: another, smaller painting that returns to this same haunting spot.

Opposite, an elusively-contoured installation by **Sophie Bueno-Boutellier and Niels Trannois** sets out to make tangible the hallucinations of a black widow spider. Painting, drawing, thread and various found objects project a complex network of apparitions triggered by the creature's altered perceptions. On the boundary between two worlds, another construction by Sophie Bueno-Boutellier sketches the outline of a screen that invites the visitor to make the move through the looking-glass.

Lastly, the three sculptures by **Francesco Gennari** that punctuate the exhibition call up night not only as a sensory experience, but also as a cosmic and even metaphysical approach to the world, as in *La Terra gira le spalle al sole* (The Earth Turns Its Back to the Sun) and its fragile egg yolk lying on black marble. With the formal paring-down characteristic of Gennari, another work plunges a worm into the pitch darkness of the wooden *Mausoleo per un verme* (Mausoleum for a Worm). In *Ascensione*, which resorts to the same interiority, snail shells support a sheet of glass whose initial transparency has given way to a disquieting darkness.

"Night Visions" advocates a rereading of certain contemporary practices tending towards abstraction – from Minimalism to Arte Povera – in the light of Romanticism and Symbolism. This is not just a thematic exhibition, however. The issue here is to grant darkness new status in our approach to art, to stand out for the complexity of the art work by asserting its hidden meaning, even when this meaning is irrational. In contrast with the Enlightenment, these "Night Visions" look to a world made of ambiguity, open to doubt and endowed with a meaning whose elucidation remains definitively beyond our reach.

Dominique Blais

Born 1974 in Chateaubriant (France). Lives and works in Noisy-le-Sec (currently in residence at La Galerie).
www.dominiqueblais.tk

Sophie Bueno-Boutellier

Born 1974 in Toulouse (France). Lives and works in Berlin and Nice.
www.ateliercardenasbellanger.com / www.veryboy.fr

Jason Dodge

Born 1969 in Newton (United States). Lives and works in Berlin.
www.yvon-lambert.com

Spencer Finch

Born 1962 in New Haven (United States). Lives and works in New York.
www.yvon-lambert.com / www.spencerfinch.com

Francesco Gennari

Born 1973 in Pesaro (Italy). Lives and works in Milan.
www.tuccirusso.com

Anne-Laure Sacriste

Born 1970 in Paris. Lives and works in Paris.
www.chungkingproject.com

Niels Trannois

Born 1976 in Flers (France). Lives and works in Berlin and Nice.
www.nielst.net

Visuals available for press



Dominique Blais
Untitled (Chandelier), 2007-2008
 Drawing: Josselin Ligné
 Production La Galerie, Contemporary Art Centre, Noisy-le-Sec



Anne-Laure Sacriste
Absorption huile sur médium, Le rivage des morts, 2006
 73 x 100 cm, oil on wood



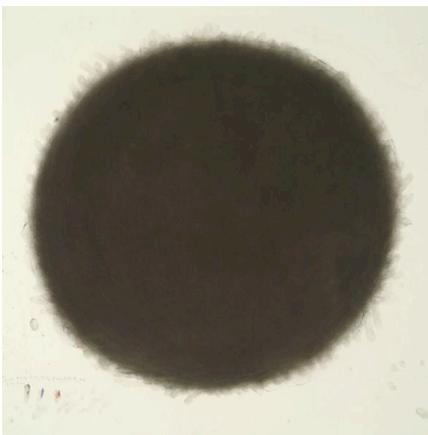
Francesco Gennari
La Terra gira le spalle al sole, 2007
 136 x 35 x 35 cm,
 black Belgian marble, iron, egg
 Private collection
 Courtesy Tucci Russo Studio per l'Arte
 Contemporanea, Torre Pellice



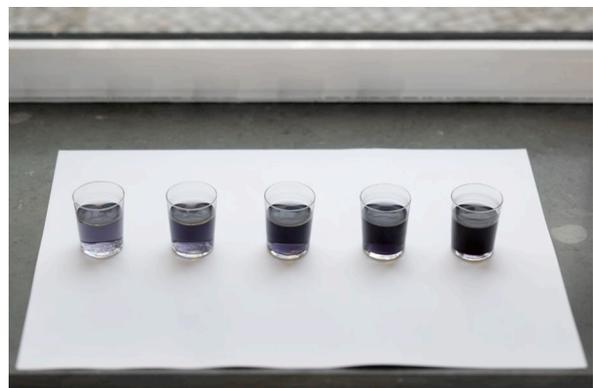
Francesco Gennari
Mausoleo per un verme, 2004
 60 x 49 x 49 cm,
 tulip wood, sugar, worm
 Private collection
 Courtesy Tucci Russo Studio per
 l'Arte Contemporanea, Torre Pellice



Francesco Gennari
Ascensione, 2006
 12 x 95 x 95 cm, painted glass, black
 Belgian marble, black gloss wood,
 snail shell
 Collection Lisa and Tucci Russo
 Courtesy Tucci Russo Studio per l'Arte
 Contemporanea, Torre Pellice



Spencer Finch
*Darkness (Lascaux Interior, N View, upper, Sept
 29, 2005)*, 2005
 76 x 76 cm, dry pastel on stonehenge paper
 Courtesy Spencer Finch and Yvon Lambert, Paris
 Photo: André Morin



Spencer Finch
Untitled (Creating a Shadow), 2007
 5 water glasses, water, ink, white paper. Dimensions variable
 Courtesy Spencer Finch and Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin/Stockholm
 Photo: Gerhard Kassner, Berlin



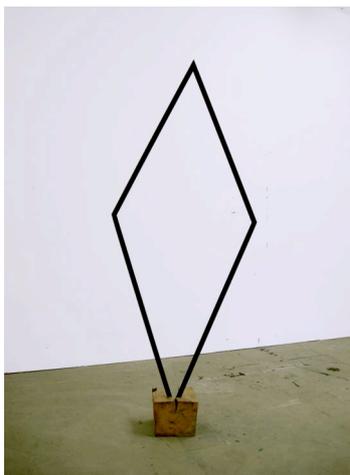
Jason Dodge
DARKNESS FALLS ON WOLKOWYJA 74, 38-613
 POLANCZYK, POLAND
 All of the light bulbs, candles, matches and anything that lights was taken from a house at the edge of a forest in Poland, 2005
 Courtesy Jason Dodge, Yvon Lambert, Paris



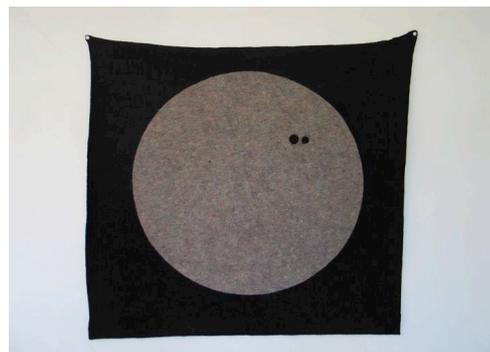
Jason Dodge
RUBIES INSIDE OF AN OWL
 During the embalming process, rubies have been placed inside of an owl, 2006
 Courtesy Jason Dodge, Yvon Lambert, Paris



Sophie Bueno-Boutellier and Niels Trannois
Black Widow, 2007
 variable dimensions, mixed media
 Courtesy of the artists and Cardenas Bellanger, Paris



Sophie Bueno-Boutellier
Mirror, Mirror, 2007
 210 x 20 x 20 cm, wood, black ink
 Courtesy Cardenas Bellanger, Paris



Sophie Bueno-Boutellier
Perfect Mood, 2008
 83 x 75 cm, wool sheet
 Courtesy Cardenas Bellanger, Paris

High definition images are available on request. Contact: Stéphanie Fourmond
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In parallel with the exhibition

"Night Day"

A programme focusing on night and darkness: an itinerary with sound, a tour in the dark, readings of contemporary texts, a discussion with Dominique Blais

> Sunday 13 April, from 2 - 7pm at La Galerie

In partnership with the Roger Gouhier Media Library and the Noisy-le-Sec Municipal Academy of Music and Dance

Discussion about the works with Baldine Saint Girons, teacher of philosophy of art and aesthetics at the University of Paris 10, Nanterre and author of *Les Marges de la nuit, pour une autre histoire de la peinture* (Les Éditions de l'Amateur, 2006)

> Saturday 26 April, from 6 - 7:30pm at La Galerie

"Night of the Night"

A programme of films about night

> Friday 11 April: meet at La Galerie at 5:30pm, then screenings at the Trianon Cinema at 6:30, 8:30 and 10:30pm

"A Little Night Music"

An itinerary with sound of the exhibition proposed by Jean-Philippe Dejussieu, director of the Noisy-le-Sec Municipal Academy of Music and Dance

> Every Saturday at La Galerie

And also...

Workshops: "A Time for Art" - Cycle 3: "Night Visions"

Interpretation of the works in three sessions, including a visit to the Gustave Moreau Museum in Paris Thursdays, from 7 - 8:30pm

> First session: 3 April

Free, advance booking required (florence.marqueyrol@noisylesec.fr / T : +33 (0)1 49 42 67 17)

Saturdays at La Galerie

Art workshops for children aged 6 - 12, from 2 - 3:30pm

Afternoon tea on Saturdays, from 4 - 5pm

"Appointments with Art"

Talks on contemporary art (13/03, 17/04, 15/05) and photography (20/03, 24/04), from 6:30 - 8pm, auditorium of the Roger Gouhier Media Library, Noisy-le-Sec

Admission free / An initiative of the Seine-Saint-Denis département

Offsite projects

Exhibition echoing "Night Visions": works by Jean-Marc Bustamante, David Claerbout, Lynne Cohen, Loris Gréaud, Thomas Ruff, Anri Sala, Patrick Tosani, Xavier Zimmermann from the Frac Île-de-France collection

> 15 March - 15 May, Lycée Théodore Monod, Noisy-le-Sec / Opening 1 April from 6 - 9pm
As part of "Jean-Pierre Timbaud, Jean Jaurès, Théodore Monod, Antoine de St-Exupéry, Galilée: 5 high schools show works from the Frac Île-de-France collection, in collaboration with 5 contemporary art venues"

Practical Information

Press Officer: Stéphanie Fourmond

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La Galerie

Contemporary art centre
1 rue Jean-Jaurès
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T: +33 (0)1 49 42 67 17
lagalerie@noisylesec.fr

From Tuesday to Friday: from 2 - 6pm
Saturday: from 2 - 7pm
Closed on 1 and 8 May

Entry to La Galerie is free

How to access La Galerie from Paris:

By RER line E (10 minutes): from Saint-Lazare/Hausmann or from Gare du Nord, 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 in the direction of Lille, exit Villemomble, follow Rosny centre commercial, and then follow 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 contemporary art centre run with public funding (City of Noisy-le-Sec, Ministry of Culture (DRAC Île-de-France), Seine-Saint-Denis Department (Conseil général) and Île-de-France region (Conseil régional)).



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)

In partnership with



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