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LA DISTANCE JUSTE

Curator : ALBERTINE DE GALBERT

Boris Achour **FR**,
Pilar Albarracín **SP**,
Gilles Barbier **FR**,
Julien Berthier **FR**,
Julien Bismuth **FR**,
Mike Bouchet **USA**,
Alain Bubleux **FR**,
Massimo Furlan **CH**,
Taro Izumi **JP**,
Richard Jackson **USA**,
Adam Janes **USA**,
Jean-Yves Jouannais **FR**,
Martin Kersels **USA**,
Paul Kos **USA**,
Paul McCarthy **USA**,
Jeff Mills **USA**,
Joachim Mogarra **FR**,
Arnold Odermatt **CH**,
Henrique Oliveira **BR**,
Niki de Saint Phalle **FR**,
Jean Tinguely **CH**,
Keith Tyson **GB**,
Jacques Villeglé **FR**,
Olav Westphalen **D**,
Winchluss **FR**,
Virginie Yassef **FR**

PILAR ALBARRACÍN (Spain) . GILLES BARBIER (France) . FREDI CASCO (Paraguay)
MARINA DE CARO (Argentina) . MATÍAS DUVILLE (Argentina) . ANA GALLARDO (Argentina)
JUAN FERNANDO HERRÁN (Colombia) . MARTIN KERSELS (USA) . HENRIQUE OLIVEIRA (Brazil)
PAULINA SILVA HAUYÓN (Chili) & WALTER ANDRADE (Argentina) . VIRGINIE YASSEF (France)



Paulina Silva Hauyón & Walter Andrade



Henrique Oliveira



Matías Duville

24 June

—

27 July
2013

OPENING

Saturday 22 June
from 6:00 pm

/

**FORTHCOMING
EXHIBITIONS**

GILLES BARBIER

20 September

—

27 October

/

NIKI DE
SAINT PHALLE
« En joue!
des assemblages
aux tirs,
1958-1964 »

8 November

—

21 December

"Try a little tenderness!" as the song goes, like an invitation to sink into the well-padded recesses of a grandmother's old armchair. Tenderness is one of the strongest components of human nature. It is neither sentimentality nor mushiness, yet its suggestion alone often triggers excesses of modesty or cynicism, the intensity of which clearly indicates that it is an essential emotion that touches our innermost core. Often denigrated and considered as the prerogative of children, old people and women – in short the weak, tenderness is nevertheless a great source of resilience in the face of violence carried out against body and mind. In a lecture entitled "The Hollow of the Palm and Infrared Love," the psychiatrist Jean-Pierre Klein¹ offered a definition of the term by default: "Tenderness is neither possession, nor submission – which objectify – nor passion, nor addiction – which amputate and merge fractions of subjects." According to him, the subtlety in tenderness resides in the "right distance," very slight but not nil, which separates two free subjects connected to one another.²

Articulated around the notion of the "right distance," this exhibition questions our connection to the edge, physical limits and otherness. At times rubbed raw or overwhelmed, as when an image, gesture, or word become unhinged and invasive, this limit shifts, whether one is the victim or the author of this shift.

¹ Director of Inecat (Institut national d'expression, de création, d'art et de thérapie [National Institute of expression, creation, art and therapy]).

² Patrice van Eersel, "Une soudaine irruption de la tendresse ?" in *Le Grand Livre de la Tendresse* (Paris: Albin Michel, 2002), p. 23.

It is the crossing of that tenuous limit between tenderness and the obscene that is at work in Spanish artist Pilar Albarracín's video *La Cabra*, in which the artist dances with a goatskin sack of wine that slowly colors her folk costume blood red.

The embrace and the separation of bodies are also the subjects of the Californian artist Martin Kersels' photographs entitled *Tossing a Friend*, which literally illustrates a brutal distancing of the artist's body and the body of Melinda, his ex-partner. Conversely, with *Posición Horizontal*, a work by Colombian artist Juan Fernando Herrán, the other is not distanced but rather contained, assimilated. The series of nesting beds, each one fitting into another like Matryoshka dolls, suggests a *mise en abîme* of childhood or one's innermost world, as if they were being placed in a sheltered spot.

Tenderness as protection and consolation runs throughout the work of the Argentinean artist Matías Duville. Coming straight out of his large-format drawings of unreal landscapes, a giant fish hook – of rusted metal and the size of a person – is gently resting on a blanket that brings to mind the same kinds of blankets found lying around in old houses, the simple sight of which is comforting. Finally videos by Ana Gallardo (*Estela*) and Virginie Yassef (*L'Arbre*, in collaboration with Julien Prévieux), along with several other video works, illustrate the fragile space tenderness embodies, between movement and immobility, silence and crying out.