

VALLOIS

RICHARD JACKSON (USA) - MARTIN KERSELS (USA) - MASSIMO FURLAN (CH) - SAVERIO LUCARIELLO (FR)
BORIS ACHOUR (FR) - MATTHEW ANTEZZO (USA) - GILLES BARBIER (FR) - ALAIN BUBLEX (FR) - JULIEN BERTHIER (FR)
PAUL MCCARTHY (USA) - JEFF MILLS (USA) - JOACHIM MOGARRA (FR) - NEDKO SOLAKOV (BUL)
KEITH TYSON (GB) - JACQUES VILLEGLÉ (FR) - JULIA WACHTEL (USA) - OLAV WESTPHALEN (D) - VIRGINIE YASSEF (FR)

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22 SEPTEMBER - 4 NOVEMBER 2006
OPENING 21 SEPTEMBER 2006

ALAIN BUBLEX « COLD ROOM, DIY, TOOLS, MACHINES »

“ Where is Alain Bublex? ”



“ Paradise Vendors, Incorporated, was housed in what had formerly been an automobile repair shop, the dark ground floor of an otherwise unoccupied commercial building on Poydras Street. The garage doors were usually open, giving the passerby an acrid nostrilful of boiling hot dogs and mustard and also of cement soaked over many years by automobile lubricants and motor oils that had dripped and drained from Harmons and Hupmobiles. The powerful stench of Paradise Vendors, Incorporated, sometimes led the overwhelmed and perplexed stroller to glance through the open door into the darkness of the garage. There his eye fell upon a fleet of large tin hot dogs mounted on bicycle tires. It was hardly an imposing vehicular collection. Several of the mobile hot dogs were badly dented. One crumpled frankfurter lay on its side, its one wheel horizontal above it, a traffic fatality. ”

John Kennedy Toole, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, 1980.



According to the artist Alain Bublex, the space of a gallery exemplifies the dual, even contradictory, function of the hotdog stand and garage. It is a space that resists being compartmentalized and classified. What are these places out side of places, nonetheless very real, that open up the possibility of a site-specific spatiality? What are these empty periods of time, suspended between two marked out moments, where everything is permanently questioned? In this time of excessive consumption (of time, space and energy) the gallery, seen as a “counter site”¹, provides the artist with an opportunity to invite the viewer to roam free, on a perilous exploration: of a no man’s land that one discovers in a car when lost in the middle of nowhere; of a suspended time, which would be revealed by a journey undertaken in a windowless fast train. We discover the exhibition, under the guise of taking a walk leads nowhere in particular, but which teaches us (camera slung over our shoulder and map in hand) to properly observe the landscape. If there is a connective thread to all this meandering it would be the planned absence of an aim or end result. Managing to keep the work in a constant state of construction seems to be Alain Bublex’s particular “challenge”. He transforms each work into a project and as a result of their incompleteness he highlights objects, places and forgotten moments that would otherwise be left in the dark. The visit leaves you with an indefinable aftertaste; the troubling observation that with each work Alain Bublex seems to slip further from one’s grasp. One wonders where he is to be found and at what moment we will stumble across him...

¹ According to Michel Foucault’s terminology concerning heterotopias.

Anne-Valérie Gasc

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PROJECT ROOM :

JULIEN BISMUTH

« THE MERCHANT OF OBLIVION »



Julien Bismuth's work navigates between the visual and literary arts. He has published a number of texts, including a series of books with Devonian Press, which he co-founded with the artist Jean-Pascal Flavien in 2005.

In his visual work, Bismuth often starts with a text, associating words with objects, drawn images, photographs, or video footage, or uses texts as the basis for a performance or short video. His recent pieces can be described as stagings of linguistic and visual elements, often linked by a thematic or narrative element. This last element does not determine the objects, images or texts of the installation, but is instead determined by them, by way of their relationships and interconnections. In addition to his own artistic and literary practice, Bismuth is currently completing a Phd in Comparative Literature at Princeton University.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS :

- OLAV WESTPHALEN / PROJECT ROOM : JULIEN BERTHIER
10 NOVEMBER - 16 DECEMBER 2006

UPCOMING ART FAIRS :

- FIAC (PARIS) 26 - 30 OCTOBER 2006
- ARTISSIMA (TURIN) 10 - 12 NOVEMBER 2006