

JOACHIM MOGARRA

7 FEBRUARY - 7 MARCH 2009

OPENING NIGHT FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2009



La demeure du Grand Moghol -

La Demeure du Grand Moghol, serie «Le Gîte et le Couvert», 2008

"I have always thought that there were two methods: to act directly on the world, or to try to transform it by working on its image."
 Joachim Mogarra

Never has Joachim Mogarra spoken of the magic of objects or related his *Odyssey in His Bed* as vividly as he does in his upcoming exhibition at Galerie Georges-Philippe et Nathalie Vallois.

Sticking to his method of black-and-white photography, Mogarra continues to offer his trademark constructions made out of humble objects, but now enriches them with words, stories and drawings that convey both human history and highly personal stories.



Journal des Voyages, serie «La Bibliothèque», 2008

Literature figures prominently here: there is a well-stocked bookshelf with the famous *Essais de Montaigne* (28 vols) and the "Confessions" of the renowned *J. Rogama* (12 vols) as well as such essential diaries as the *Le Journal des Gourmets*, a fishing journal. The arts and travel are represented, too, by *L'ascension du canapé* and *L'Écosse en dix bouteilles*.

But there is no need to read through the whole library, or to have a special room to house them, for the books here can be perused via photographs of their edges.



Le planétarium -

Le Planétarium, serie «Les Briquets», 2008

Photo-novels constitute an important part of this corpus. Visitors will be able to go on a *Voyage Romantique* via a series of antique prints spiced up by pithy texts, or relive the artist's Moroccan adventures along roads strewn with bread and cardboard boxes, guided by Playmobil and other figures.

The *Gîte et le Couvert (Board and Lodging)* series invites you to open a door constituted by a champagne cork or enter into the carafe that is *Maison de Madame Irma*.

The exhibition teems with titles, or perhaps we should say "legends", in both senses of the word. For these words not only explain the images, they also convey the fantasy dimension of stories in which historical facts are transformed by the popular imagination or poetic invention.

Joachim Mogarra, certainly, is a legend of art!

VALLOIS

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PROJECT ROOM

TARO IZUMI « HELSINKI »

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Taro Izumi, a representative of the new Japanese generation, creates in a world reminiscent of the plays of Samuel Beckett, a place where absurdity meets slapstick, and that is often tinted with dark humour.

His installations transform their host spaces into great "bric-a-bracs" of images, sounds and objects, places where the artist sets up multiple dialogues with television screens. Using a camera, felt pens, or jars, Taro carries out all kinds of absurd or wacky experiments, staging the great and the very small dramas of human existence.

Sometimes, we need to lean down and look through a cardboard structure to see the artist being crushed by a giant hand like a fly (*Lime at the Bottom of the Lake*, 2006), or be attentive enough to see him swimming through a jar placed judiciously in front of the screen (*Finland*, 2008).

The frontier between the projected image and reality grows hazy; the artist plays with spectator's senses.

"Since the video image cannot be transformed, I can always knock it about a bit. I try to create works that can be touched. When I press the "play" button, the images appear like 'zombies'. In Paris I'm going to catch 'zombies' in the streets, in spaces, in the gallery's nooks and crannies."

Taro Izumi was born in 1976 and lives and works in Tokyo. This is his first exhibition in France.



Panazoid, 2005



Small world, 2008



UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS :

MARCH / APRIL : JULIEN BISMUTH / JACQUES VILLEGLÉ

APRIL / MAY : BORIS ACHOUR

24 APRIL - 1ST JUNE : LA FORCE DE L'ART #02 (WITH BORIS ACHOUR, GILLES BARBIER, ALAIN BUBLEX, VIRGINIE YASSEF)

23 APRIL - 27 APRIL : ARTBRUSSELS 2009

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