NEW REALISM = 
NEW PERCEPTIVE APPROACHES
OF THE REAL

Arman, César, Christo, Gérard Deschamps, François Dufrène, Raymond Hains, Yves Klein, Martial Raysse, Mimmo Rotella, Niki de Saint Phalle, Daniel Spoerri, Jean Tinguely, Jacques Villeglé

The Georges-Philippe & Nathalie Vallois gallery has been committed to defending the artists of New Realism since its opening in 1990. We are not pioneers in this generation of artists: Iris Clert, Galerie J, Galerie Rive gauche (with Jean Larcade), and the Iolas Gallery were their great discoverers.

However, at a time when it was frowned upon to have a trans-generational programmation, we were for a long time the only ones of our generation to claim our dedication to this exceptional group of artists. Since 1991, Arman, Jacques Villeglé, François Dufrène, Niki de Saint Phalle and Jean Tinguely have been exhibited in our spaces. César also occupied a prominent place here.

To have personally known these artists, to continue to show their most significant works, to have confronted them in several group shows with younger visual artists whom we are just as proud to represent, is the DNA of our gallery. The contemporaneity of the pieces gathered in this exhibition once again demonstrates the need for a plural perspective that will allow each of us to renew our apprehension about this extraordinary generation.

OPENING NIGHT

Thursday June 10th 2021
from 6 p.m.
"The New Realists inhabited the present, for the purpose of giving it a good clean. We should not be afraid of giving their actions a literal interpretation. Into the dustbin with old stuff that’s cluttering us up! Arman also breaks the antiquated wireless and burns period furniture! Scrap metal is crushed! Compressed by César, it is squeezed tightly into carefully calibrated balls. Go to it! Christo lowers the curtain, and Klein creates a complete void. There is one woman in the group, Niki de Saint Phalle, and it is she who takes up arms, firing a rifle at symbols of the patriarchy and “Saint-Sulpician” relics. They are eliminated. Not for nothing does Martial Raysse speak of “hygiene of vision”.

"NEW REALISM IS THE MOVEMENT WHICH, IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF ART, HAS LASTED FOR THE SHORTEST AMOUNT OF TIME. TWENTY MINUTES AFTER IT FORMED, EVERYONE WAS ARGUING WITH ONE ANOTHER."

-ARMAN

To use today’s term, they were recycling. And they were trying to answer this question: what else can we do, which is not imposed on us, with the Real that we cannot escape? It is this realisation – that we cannot escape it – which is truly “Realist”. (…)

“WHEN PEOPLE SAY WE WERE RESTANY’S TOY SOLDIERS, THAT’S NOT TRUE. PIERRE RESTANY HAD THE IDEA OF UNITING US, OF GIVING US A NAME, OF GIVING US ADDED STRENGTH, BUT WE EXISTED WITHOUT HIM. WHAT HE DID HELPED US, AND HELPED HIM TOO.”

-JACQUES VILLEGLÉ