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19 JANUARY - 25 FEBRUARY 2007

OPENING 18 JANUARY 2007

# PROJECT ROOM: MIKE BOUCHET

## ALMOST EVERY CITY IN THE WORLD

You have seen Mike Bouchet's Jacuzzis or Poster Paintings at Palais de Tokyo or on our booths. As if he wanted to play with the viewer, the artist presents for his first exhibition at the gallery, a very minimal, at first sight, installation, composed by a video and an inordinately large book. This book, of more than 30 000 pages and more than two meters wide, is the quasi complete list of all the cities, villages and places in the world. The video, which lasts more than 500 hours, shows this enumeration of names like movie's credit.

«The power of any comedic work lies in its ability to rattle its audience and interrupt the inexorable pull of habits and expectations. In its more profound instantiations, Bouchet's work being one of them, comedy is neither entertainment nor a frivolous respite from reality. It is instead a disruptive burst that echoes outwards, reflecting less its own absurdity than that of its surroundings. Yet humor can also expose something else altogether, something like the repressed vitality that inhabits even the most oppressive of realities, if only in the ephemeral spark of a burst of laughter. It is towards such ends that Bouchet appropriates and alters the rules of his different trades, projecting them through the warped lens of comedy to expose both the truths belied by their "putrid magic" and the possibility of other, more fulfilling transactions between artist, artwork, and viewer.»

(Julien Bismuth, «Mike Bouchet: Celebrity Artist», 2005)



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