

# CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN GENÈVE

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DOSSIER DE PRESSE

# **KLAT**

(\*1997)

TENNESSEE WIGGLER THE BIG FAT WORM AKA LE LOMBRIC COSMIQUE  
27.11.2009–14.02.2010

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## KLAT

TENNESSEE WIGGLER THE BIG FAT WORM AKA LE LOMBRIC COSMIQUE

(3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

27<sup>th</sup> November 2009 – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Opening 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009, 6 to 9 p.m.

The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is pleased to announce KLAT's new solo show. On this occasion, the group will present "TENNESSEE WIGGLER THE BIG FAT WORM AKA LE LOMBRIC COSMIQUE", a new installation specially designed for the display spaces within the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève. This monumental sculpture represents a giant earthworm that spreads across the exhibition rooms. The project is freely inspired by the post-apocalyptic visions in J. G. Ballard's first four novels "The Wind From Nowhere", "The Drowned World", "The Drought", and "The Crystal World". In each room, a part of the worm's body is associated with one of Ballard's destructive natural elements: fire, air, or water. The earthworm also symbolically represents an ecological cycle.

The earthworm has the shape of a snake, whose figure is ambivalently connoted, both sacred and evil, in many cultures. The reptile is mentioned in the very title of the work, as it refers to anthropologist Jeremy Narby's "The Cosmic Snake", which analyses the shamanic practices of certain Latin American ethnic groups. KLAT also takes inspiration from alchemists' snake symbolism – the figure of Ouroboros. When the animal bites its tail, having neither beginning, nor end, it symbolises the "Magnum Opus", an esoteric representation of the evolution towards perfection in nature. This vision of the alchemical transformation echoes biodegradation and life cycles.

Both disgusting and fascinating, the cosmic earthworm offers food for thought about our human condition in a clinical industrial world. In his novels, Ballard focused on analysing how our capitalist society works, imagining its possible excesses through dystopias – fictional narratives of disaster. What would a human being be in a hostile and untameable nature similar to that described in these sci-fi novels? Which species would survive and how would they recover life cycles?

While KLAT's practice clearly belongs to the art world, their earmark is a combination of great accessibility and a strong awareness of political issues. With the "TENNESSEE WIGGLER THE BIG FAT SQUIRM AKA LE LOMBRIC COSMIQUE", the KLAT group reaffirm their interest in suggesting alternative models of social organisation. They propose an eerie, disturbing object that reflects a crooked image of our future, and that paradoxically carries tangible alternatives for the consumer society.

Beyond its environmental implication, the work also provides criticism of the art world. The cosmic earthworm is a sculpture that interferes with the institutional white cube and "sullies" a space that is normally shielded from the outside world. It is intended in the first place to the citizen-viewer, and belongs to the history of institutional criticism, an element that is indivisible from KLAT's practice.

KLAT belong to a tradition that originates in Group Material's political practices, and in alternatives to the art market that were developed in the 1990s by Parasite's artists in New York.

Exhibition curator: Denis Pernet

The exhibition is generously supported by:

Fonds d'art contemporain de la Ville de Genève (FMAC)

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PARALLEL EXHIBITION : UTOPIA AND THE EVERYDAY. BETWEEN ART AND EDUCATION



"Ex caligine, nova insignia: anaphoros | Gegenschein", 2009,  
Installation, Galerie Laurent Godin, Paris, 2009. (photo © Florian Keinefenn. Courtesy Galerie Laurent Godin)

"Ghost drive-in", 2008



"Shark and Hall", 2006, featuring Jason Fox



"Sponge the night", KLAT and Vidya Gastaldon, installation, Shark, Geneva, 2008 (photo KLAT)



"Pinatubo", Galerie Blancpain, sculpture, Geneva, 2007, (photo KLAT)

Exhibition « Ketchup », Forde, 1998, after an original drawing by Thierry Guitard, (photo KLAT)



"Colony Collapse Disorder" installation, 2007, Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève



## BIOGRAPHY

The KLAT collective is currently composed of Jérôme Massard, Florian Saini and Konstantin Sgouridis, who live and work in Geneva. The group formed 12 years ago and featured 6 members then. From 1998 to 1999, KLAT had an assignment at Espace Forde (Geneva), where the group had 8 exhibitions in different forms: installations, performances, events, other invited artists, etc. The group has so far had 50 exhibitions in various formats, and represented Switzerland at international events (2<sup>nd</sup> Montréal Biennale, Palais du commerce, 2000; Pusan International Biennale, South Korea, 2002).

### Solo shows (selection)

2009	Ex caligine, nova insigna : anaphoros   Gegenschein, galerie Laurent Godin, Paris Hercule, le retour, Galerie J, Paris
2008	Nony, Shark espace d'art contemporain, Geneva
2001	One for the money, two for the show, Galerie Francesca Pia, Bern Calcinatio, San-Sebastian, Basque Country (curator Peio Aguirre)
2000	Mater Suspirorum (Evil talk III), Pac, Fribourg (invited by Pac)
1999	Evil talk, Cubitt gallery, London (invited by Stefan Kalmar) Gimme Five in Patchwork in progress 5, Mamco, Geneva (curator Fabrice Stroun)
1998	Klat meets Ecart, Stand Ecart, Basel Art Fair 98, Basel (invited by John M. Armleder)
1998-99	Exhibition curators at Espace FORDE (Geneva)

### Group shows (selection)

2008	Multiply, Sous station Lebon, Nice X, Galerie 1m3, Lausanne Abstraction Extension, une scène romande et ses connexions, Fondation pour l'art contemporain Claudine et Jean-Marc Salomon, Annecy (curators Julien Fronsacq, Samuel Gross, Christian Besson) Elucidée, Espace Out Of This World, Territet, Switzerland (curator Any Serratti)
2007	What we do is secret, Galerie Blancpain, Geneva (curator Amy O'Neill) Ceci n'est pas une ruine, Galerie Ruine, Geneva, (curator Elena Montesinos) Genève, artistes et créateurs d'aujourd'hui, Centre d'art contemporain Genève, Geneva Welschland, Substitut, Raum für aktuelle Kunst aus der Schweiz, Berlin
2006	Sublime, L'atelier, Geneva Accrochage des éditions 1995-2005, Centre d'édition contemporaine, Geneva
2005	Back from the gRave, Duplex, Geneva (curator Elena Montesinos)
2004	The Age of Optimism, Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zurich (curator Fabrice Stroun)
2003	Lee Tau Seti Central Armory Show, Villa Arson, Nice (curator Stéphane Magin)
2002	Rock, paper, scissors, Galerie Francesca Pia, Bern Batofar cherche la Suisse, Batofar, Paris Pusan International Biennale, South Korea
2001	L'esprit de famille (Mamco collection), Villa du Parc, Annemasse (curator Philippe Cuenat) Social Hackers, Centre d'Edition Contemporaine, Geneva Record Collection, Espace Forde, Geneva Bourses d'aide à la création de la Ville de Genève, Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, Geneva Liste 01, Art Basel, stand Galerie Francesca Pia, Basel
2000	Xn Janviers en Bourgogne, Espace des Arts, Chalon-sur-Saône (curator Lionel Bovier) Beyond the pleasure principle, Espace Forde, Geneva (curators Fabrice Stroun & Mai-Thu Perret) Guliver - Sat 4: Urban, Migrosmuseum, Zurich (curators Rein Wolfs & Gianni Jetzer) Etat des lieux 2, Fri-art, Fribourg (curator Lionel Bovier) Presumé innocent, Capc, Bordeaux (curators Stephanie Moisdon & Marie-Laure Bernadac) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Biennale de Montréal, Palais du commerce, Montreal (curator Peggy Gale)

1998-99 Let's be friends, Migrosmuseum, Zurich (curator Rein Wolfs)  
Exhibition curators at Espace FORDE, Geneva

#### Exhibitions held at SHARK, Geneva

2008 Peintures et dessins de Séraphin Brandenberger (proposed by Fabrice Stroun)  
Sounds, smells, touché ! (proposed by Kim Seob Boninsegni with Daniel Cousido,  
Baptiste Gaillard, Stéphane Kropf)  
The Computer Tree (Nicolas Wagnières)  
The Ghost Drive-in (display by Klat, mural by Fabio Jaramillo)  
Kommando Karl Kraus 2 (Tilo Steireif & Diego Castro)

2007 Forrest Dump (display by Harold Bouvard, Josse Bailly and Klat; drawings by Josse Bailly;  
installation by Harold Bouvard; installation and soundtrack by Richard Hoeck and John  
Miller)  
Les amis de Louise Blanche (paintings: Michel Cotting; design and scenography: Sibylle  
Stoeckli)  
Marooned (Anny Serratti & Jean-Sébastien Furer)  
Der Tanz der Doppelgänger (Angela Marzullo, Joss Bailly, Thomas Bonny, Elia Buletti,  
Diego Castro, Abien Clerc, Emilie Ding, Solvej Dufour-Andersen, Philippe Eliopoulos,  
Sylvie Fleury, Jean-Sébastien Furer, Baptiste Gaillard, Vidya Gastaldon, Daniel Geiser,  
Olivier Genoud, Alois Godinat, Hervé Raumann, Michael Hofer, Fabio Jaramillo, Alexandre  
Joly, Raphaël Julliard, Balthazar Lovay, Yves Mettler, microsillons, Elena Montesinos,  
Virginie Morillo, Olivier Mosset, Mélodie Mousset, Tom de Peyret, Nathalie Rebolz,  
Christophe Rey, Tatiana Rihs, Anny Serratti, Tilo Steireif, Peter Stoffel, Sidney Stucki,  
Nicolas Wagnières)

2006 Shark&Hall (display by Klat, invited artist: Jason Fox)

#### Editions

2009 Ex Caligine, nova insigna : anaphoros | Gogenschein, screenprint, Galerie Laurent Godin,  
Paris

2001 2001 calendar, Centre d'édition contemporaine, Geneva & Valdez Editions, Bogota

2000 Migros shopping bag, Migrosmuseum, Zurich

#### Films

2002 L'Aventure c'est l'aventure

2001 Pulsars (Evil Talk IV)

#### Prizes, grants and artist residencies

2007 Ateliers de la Ville de Genève (L'Usine, 2007-2009)  
Bourse Berthoud de la Ville de Genève

2001 Bourse d'aide à la création de la Ville de Genève

2000 Ateliers de la Ville de Genève (L'Usine, 2001-2003)

1999 Swiss Federal Art Grant

#### Publications, catalogues and media

2008 L'effet papillon 1989-2007, Centre d'édition contemporaine catalogue, Geneva  
Collection 1978-2008, Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich

2004 Artists in residence at l'Usine catalogue, Geneva (2001-2003)

2001 Across/Art suisse 1975-2000 (publisher: Skira)

2000 Genève, 21e siècle, 21 défis, 21 talents pour les relever. (publisher: Naef)  
Zine-sur-Zone, Espace des arts, Chalon-sur-Saône, France (fanzine)  
Gimme 5, Mamco, Geneva (fanzine)  
Material, Migrosmuseum, Zurich  
Présumé innocent exhibition album