

CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN  
GENÈVE

Press dossier

SOLID OBJECTS:

VALENTIN  
CARRON

(\*1977)

VS

mai-thu perret

(\*1976)

## SOLID OBJECTS

### VALENTIN CARRON VS MAI-THU PERRET

(2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

20 May - 14 August 2005  
Private View: 19 May at 6 pm

The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is proud to present SOLID OBJECTS, VALENTIN CARRON VS MAI-THU PERRET, an exhibition co-curated with Fabrice Stroun.

VALENTIN CARRON and MAI-THU PERRET form part of a new artistic scene based in the French speaking part of Switzerland, drawing from a 'post-pop' tradition which proceeds to a critical appropriation of several cultural forms. Both artists refer to the vernacular and to design, questioning the relationship between aesthetics and ideology that can be observed in the objects of our daily environment.

MAI-THU PERRET conceives an important amount of her works as part of an overall narrative, revolving around a utopian community of women based in New Mexico. Entitled *Crystal Frontier*, this series initiated in 1999 brings together various works meant as the 'potential production' of those women, where each piece is referring to a certain aspect of their common activities. *Pyramid of Love* (2003), for example, consists of nine modular hutches, crafted in wood and shaped as a giant pyramid used to keep rabbits, while the series of small scale abstract and figurative sculptures entitled *Pure Expression male/female* (2003) have been 'created' by the community in a arts and crafts workshop situation.

VALENTIN CARRON is interested in revisiting the vernacular iconography of Swiss culture, such as, for example, the recent appropriation of mountain culture within design chique (described by Wallpaper as 'The New Mountain Culture'), and art world strategies such as the famous Bischofberger advertisements in Artforum depicting 'primitive' Switzerland. Objects of wine production (characteristic of the Valais region native to the artist), alpine paraphernalia and religious symbols are appropriated and reformulated by the artist to produce works with a humorous touch. However the comic aspect often extends to vitriolic critique of the oft-thought perception of Switzerland as a pure and perfect nation, steeped in eternal and traditional values.

This exhibition chooses to confront the works of both artists in a particularly dense scenography. No less than 17 sculptures are presented in the same space, that is 8 works by each artist, as well as a collaborative piece created for the occasion. The latter aspect of the project is of particular relevance. Based on the on-going discussions that the artists have had over the years, the project seeks to provide a platform from which the artists can investigate their proximities and differences within artistic practice.

MAI-THU PERRET, born in 1976 in Geneva. Lives and works between Geneva and Berlin. She studied at Cambridge University, UK, and the Whitney Independent Study Program, New York. She had solo exhibitions at Statements, Art Basel; Centre d'édition contemporaine, Genève; The Modern Institute, Glasgow and Glassbox, Paris.

VALENTIN CARRON, born in 1976 in Martigny. Lives and works in Fully, Valais, Switzerland. He studied at the Ecole cantonale d'art de Lausanne (Ecal). He had solo exhibit at Statements, Art Basel; Alimentation Générale, Luxembourg; Circuit, Lausanne; Fri-Art, Fribourg; Glassbox, Paris.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND IMAGES, please contact Aurélien Gamboni on +41 22 329 18 42, e-mail: [presse@centre.ch](mailto:presse@centre.ch)

This exhibition was possible thanks to the kind support of Ambassade de France en Suisse, Conseil de la Culture, Etat du Valais, Fondation Bea pour Jeunes Artistes and Fondation Fluxum

The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is supported by la Ville de Genève - Département des affaires culturelles and La Loterie Romande.

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NEXT EXHIBITION: *THE ARTIST'S BODY THEN AND NOW*, 26 OCTOBER – 18 DECEMBER 2005

## VALENTIN CARRON

Né en 1977 à Martigny, vit à Martigny

1992-1997 Ecole cantonale d'art, Valais  
1997-1999 Ecole cantonale d'art, Lausanne

### EXPOSITIONS PERSONNELLES (SELECTION)

2005 Centre d'Art Contemporain, Genève (avec Mai-Thu Perret)  
*Fer de Lance*, Galerie Francesca Pia, Berne  
*OK, OKAY*, Greyart Gallery – Swiss Institute, New-York

2004 Art Basel 35, Bâle, *Art Statements*  
*Land Crusade*, Evergreen, Genève  
*Le mal nécessaire*, Les Halles, Charles-François Duplain, Porrentruy,

2003 Galerie Praz-Delavallade, Paris  
*Freelander*, Alimentation Générale, Luxembourg

2002 *After the hunting rush*, Circuit, Lausanne  
Galerie Kamm, Berlin (avec Zilla Leutenegger)  
*Land over*, FAC, Sierre  
*Jeep heep heep*, Galerie Francesca Pia, Berne  
*Sweet revolution*, Fri-Art, Fribourg

2001 *Easy glissing*, Glassbox, Paris  
*La conduite du rucher*, MAMCO, Genève

2000 *Slide Side*, Camion, Sierre  
*Saison Morte*, Forde, Genève  
*Turbo*, le studio / CAN, Neuchâtel

### EXPOSITIONS COLLECTIVES (SELECTION)

2004 *Fürchte Dich*, organisée par Simon Maurer et Gianni Jetzer, Helmhaus Zürich  
*Homo Social*, Champion Fine Arts, New York  
*Dalla Gina Allo Spazio* Museo cantonale d'arte di Lugano  
Last Property, Domaine Pommery, Reims  
*It's all an Illusion*, Kunstmuseum Migros, Zürich

2003 *Kontext, Form, Troja*, organisée par Daniel Baumann, Secession, Vienne  
*Musollaici*, Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris  
*In diesen Zeiten c'est le moment*, Centre PasquArt, Bienne  
*Fink Forward*, Kunsthhaus, Glarus  
Biennale, Prague  
*Energies de résistance*, Attitude, Genève  
*The golden Week*, Kodama, Osaka  
*Camo-Show*, Kunsthhaus, Wiesbaden  
*Synthétiseur*, Espace Fauriel, Saint-Etienne  
*Vraisemblablement*, Alimentation Générale, Luxembourg  
*rock paper scissors*, Galerie Francesca Pia, Bern

2000 *La station fait main basse*, Galerie des Ponchettes, Nice  
*Prix Fédéraux des beaux-arts 2000*, Fri-Art, Fribourg  
*Canapé*, élac, Lausanne

1998 *Gorgous*, élac, Lausanne

### PRIX / DISTINCTIONS

2002 Prix fédéral des beaux-arts  
Prix Moët Hennessy

2001 Prix fédéral des beaux-arts

## MAI-THU PERRET

Née en 1976 à Genève, vit et travaille à Genève et Berlin

BA en lettres anglaises, Cambridge University, Royaume-Uni.

Whitney Independent Study Program, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

### EXPOSITIONS PERSONNELLES

- 2005 Centre d'Art Contemporain, Genève (avec Valentin Carron)  
2004 *Art Statements*, Art Basel 35, Bâle  
*Love thy sister like thyself*, Centre d'édition contemporaine, Genève  
2003 *Pure self-expression x25*, Galerie Francesca Pia, Berne  
2002 The Modern Institute, Glasgow  
*We close our eyes in order to see*, Glassbox, Paris  
2001 *Land of Crystal*, Le Studio, CAN, Neuchâtel

### EXPOSITIONS COLLECTIVES (SELECTION)

- 2005 *Model Modernism*, curated by Christian Rattemeyer Artist Space, New York  
2004 *Fürchte Dich*, Helmhaus, Zürich, organisée par Gianni Jetzer und Simon Maurer  
*Leviathan Rising Under Moon's Influence*, Champion Fine Arts, Brooklyn, USA  
organisée par Steven Parrino  
*The Age Of Optimism*, Kilchmann galerie, Zurich (23/10-23/12)  
*None of the above*, Swiss Institute, New York, organisée par John Armleder  
*Tuesday's gone*, Karvasla, Tibilissi, Géorgie, organisée par Daniel Baumann  
*Year*, Brooklyn, USA organisée par Wade Guyton  
2003 *Form / Kontext / Troja*, Secession, Vienne, Autriche, organisée par Daniel Baumann  
*Socialism – A love letter*, Fia Backström Productions, Brooklyn, États-Unis  
*Fink Forward the collection/collection*, Kunsthaus Glarus, Glarus, organisée par  
Matthias Kuhn, Christoph Lichtin, Georg Rutishauser und Nadia Schneider  
*The return of the creature*, Künstlerhaus Thurn + Taxis, Bregenz, Autriche  
organisée par Steven Parrino  
2002 *Liste 2002*, Bâle (Galerie Francesca Pia, Berne)  
2001 *Rock Paper Scissors*, Galerie Francesca Pia, Berne  
*Get Angry – Perspectives romandes 3*, Espace Arlaud, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne  
*Wahrscheinlich (vraisemblablement)*, Alimentation Générale Art Contemporain, Luxembourg,  
organisée par Julien Fronsacq  
*Liste 2001*, Basel, Galerie Francesca Pia, Berne  
*The New Domestic Landscape*, organisée par Lionel Bovier, Galería Javier López, Madrid  
2000 *Dr Wings*, Air de Paris, Paris  
*Why can't monsters get along with other monsters*, organisée par Fabrice Stroun,  
Galerie Francesca Pia, Berne  
*Etat des lieux #2*, Préfiguration du Museum of Contemporary Art, Tucson, (AZ),  
organisée par Lionel Bovier, Fri-Art, Fribourg

### PRIX / DISTINCTIONS

- 2004 Prix fédéral des beaux-arts

### PROJETS ORGANISES

- 2004 *Boys Keep Swinging*, Champion Fine Arts, New York  
2003 *Le Rayon noir*, Circuit, Lausanne, en collaboration avec Fabrice Stroun  
*Love is a battlefield*, 27 Canal, New York, en collaboration avec Daniel Baumann et Fabrice Stroun  
2002 Le Jardin de la Violence / Der Garten der Gewalt, Musée historique, Morat, Suisse, un projet Expo 02  
(Exposition nationale suisse) en collaboration avec Daniel Baumann, Johannes Gachnang et Fabrice  
Stroun  
2001 *All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy*, Galerie Francesca Pia, Berne, en collaboration avec  
Fabrice Stroun  
1999-2001 Forde, Espace d'art contemporain, Genève, en collaboration avec Fabrice Stroun

## PROGRAMME 2005

LAUREATS DES BOURSES DES FONDS BERTHOUD, LISSIGNOL-CHEVALIER ET GALLAND

2<sup>e</sup> étage et 3<sup>e</sup> étage

jusqu'au 30 janvier 2005

SHIRANA SHAHBAZI

3<sup>e</sup> étage

2 mars – 29 mai 2005

vernissage le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 2005 à 18h

BUDGET BUREAU FOR LANGUAGE AND APPLICATION

Clare Goodwin, Sandi Paucic & guests

avec

UTILISATION TRANSITOIRE

une installation vidéo de Thomas Isler

2<sup>e</sup> étage

2 mars – 17 avril 2005

vernissage le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 2005 à 18h

SOLID OBJECTS

VALENTIN CARRON VS MAI-THU PERRET

2<sup>e</sup> étage

20 mai – 14 août 2005

vernissage le 19 mai 2005 à 18h

MIX-M.ORG

4<sup>e</sup> étage

29 juin – 31 juillet 2005

vernissage le 28 juin 2005 à 18h

COLLABORATION AVEC LA BÂTIE – FESTIVAL DE GENEVE

2<sup>e</sup> étage

1 - 11 septembre 2005

THE ARTIST'S BODY THEN AND NOW

26 octobre – 18 décembre 2005

vernissage le 25 octobre 2005 à 18h

LAUREATS DES BOURSES DES FONDS BERTHOUD, LISSIGNOL-CHEVALIER ET GALLAND

2<sup>e</sup> étage et 3<sup>e</sup> étage

décembre 2005 – janvier 2006

XMAS PARTY

avec Villa Magica Records – John Armleder, Stéphane Armleder et Sylvie Fleury

2<sup>e</sup> étage

fin décembre 2004