

BLOW-UP

Eleonora AGUIARI | Igor E_KINJA | João VILHENA

30.10.10 | 20.12.10

Alberta Pane Gallery presents "Blow-Up," a group exhibition that brings together international artists **Eleonora Aguiari**, **Igor E_kinja**, and **João Vilhena** around the common theme of perceptive illusion. The title of the exhibition is a reference to the film by Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni that relates the loss of marks of a photographer confronted by confusion between reality and illusion. Here, the presented works – photographs and drawings – invite the observer to stimulate their powers of perception while playing with the boundaries of the visible and the invisible.

The photographs of **Igor E_kinja** evoke three-dimensional installations of the series *made in:side*. The traced lines of packing tape, taking the form of stacked or adjacent boxes, create the illusion of volume. The void is transformed into an active space of perception that invites the observer to construct something out of nothing. By using spatial parameters with extreme precision, E_kinja creates "reduced atmospheres" of temporary and short-lived nature that exceed the physical aspects of the work and open up the registers of the imperceptible and the imagination.

Contrary to the architectonic perceptions of E_kinja, the trompe-l'oeil drawings of **João Vilhena** have no relief, or almost. The artist applies himself to the minute reproduction of all sorts of paper (medical prescriptions, restaurant bills, post-its) that are flat motives of excellence. On these spotless reproductions, executed with a care almost "mono obsessive", barbaric motives (scrawls, tracings, tasks) appear, briefly showing the marks of a game ticket to be scratched or of a pair of intertwined paperclips, while pink post-its "stuck" on *Anche l'Occhio Vela la Sua Parte* await their notes. Through these curious and absurd drawings, Vilhena looks to call out to the observer, by utilizing the same genre of trompe-l'oeil and by the choice of titles used in communication with the works.

The recent black and white photos and installations of **Eleonora Aguiari** represent objects in "levitation." Lines formed by black, red, or silver tape cross throughout the works to join each of the main subjects, which seem as if suspended in time and space. According to Merleau-Ponty, the invisible is not opposed to the visible, but rather it is its continuation, its depth. It is in this sense that one must understand Eleonora's work, which evokes "the invisible that accompanies us," as well as "the perception that goes beyond the things we know, or that we control..."

Three artists in the singular universe give us three levels of interpretation of perception. Three-dimensional illusions, trompe-l'oeil, and perception of the invisible reveal the different facets of a complex notion of the apprehending reality. According to Georges Perec, if the perceptive illusion works, it is because we do indeed want to be duped even if "sometimes the strength of illusion is such that we pretend to still feel it under the reality that denies it."

Galerie Alberta Pane

Eleonora AGUIARI

Born in 1969 in Italy, lives and works in Paris and Londres.

2010

Installation in Saint-Germain-des-Prés' Church, Nuit Blanche 2010, Paris, France.

2009

White Else, School Gallery, Paris, France.

2008

Selected Joseph Grimaldi Park, Islington, UK.

Selected Xian Qujiangchi Park, China, by ArtOffice, London, UK.

'Holy Soup' project, public installation in the center of London, UK.

2005

Spitalfields Art Project, permanent sculpture , public commission, project of Norman Foster, London, UK.

Bloc, group show, Bowieart, County Hall Gallery, London, UK.

2004

Lord Napier, Installation, London, UK.

Igor E_KINJA

Born in 1975 in Croatie, lives and works in Italy.

2010

A Vision Of Central Europe, curated by Luc Tuymans, Bruggen Central, Brugge, Belgium.

Word for word, without works, curated by Alenka Gregoric, City Art Museum, Ljubljana, Croatia.

The Big Wave, Varna City Gallery, Bulgary.

2009

Project for Unsuccessful Gathering, curated by Anne Kayser, Casino Luxembourg Contemporary Art Forum, Luxembourg.

Igor E_kinja - Made In:Side, commissaire Alberto Salvatori, Villa Bardini, Florence, Italie.

Fifty/ Fifty. Art in dialog with the 50ties, Wien Museum Karlsplatz, Wien, Austria.

Etats de l'artifice, curated by Elena Sorokina, Lille 3000, Lille, France.

Complicity : Contemporary Photography and the Matter of Sculpture, curated by Leigh Markopoulos and Rena Bransten, San Francisco, USA.

João VILHENA

Born in 1973 in Portugal, lives and works in Nice, France.

2010

Il n'y a pas de mot comme équivalent, during « Art-o-rama », Saffir Galerie Nomade, Marseille, France.

2009

Fidalgo!, Maison abandonnée - Villa Cameline, Nice, France.

Traits Noirs (Moo Chew Wong et ses invirés), Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nice, Dir. des M. de Nice and Villa Arson, Nice, France.

Paysage urbain, Armandat, Barjols, France.

2008

Allerretour, curated by Emmanuel Régent, Galerie RX, Paris, France.

Images, flux/reflux, with Jeanne Susplugas, Pierre Bendine Boucar and Frédéric Clavère, Contemporary Art Center, Istres, France.

2006

Cabinet névrotique, curated by South Art-Le Labo, Maison abandonnée - Villa Cameline, Nice, France.

Orange Mécaniques : with Frédéric Clavère, curated Le Labo, L'Atelier Soardi, Nice, France.

2003

Prémio Rothschild de Pintura, Bank Rothschild, Lisbonne, Portugal.