

« ARTISTIC CLUTTER »

CURATOR : JEAN-MAX COLARD

23 NOVEMBER - 21 DECEMBER 2007

OPENING : THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2007



Paris, 30 October 2007



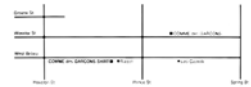
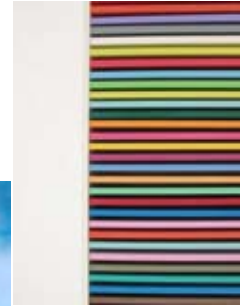
Principle: an exhibition conceived around works kept in storage at Galerie Georges-Philippe et Nathalie Vallois. *Mathematics:* a gap in the programme + group show before Christmas = bric-a-brac. *Refusal:* not playing the dandy, not making a choice of works based on my own tastes, in short, to renounce the role of “author” of the exhibition in the old, conservative, and restored sense of that word. To adopt a system, a set of rules. My personal tastes interest nobody, not even myself. *Theory:* introduce the death of the author into the nevertheless attractive concept of the “auteur exhibition.” *Method:* suggest that Galerie Georges-Philippe et Nathalie Vallois might like to clear out their storage rooms. The exhibition as clear-out. *Implicit information:* out of principle, the list of works and artists is not definitive. *Title:* borrowed from the exhibition by François Morellet at the Musée d’Art Contemporain in Lyon. *Strategy:* to make clutter an aesthetic quality. *Subtitle:* “good riddance” (orally, the emphasis is on “good”). *Competition:* the smallest piece of artistic clutter in the exhibition. Can one be minimal and still clutter? *Answer:* definitely, just invite François Morellet. *Definition 1:* Fill up, pile things up, thus preventing people from moving and using things freely. Cf. Hamper, hinder, obstruct. “A herd of camels was cluttering up the street, all the way across” (Fromentin). *Opportunity:* I’m taking advantage of the opportunity to unclutter my flat in Rue Mar-tel and bring into the gallery the big painting by Thomas Lélou that fills a quarter of my bedroom — a white monochrome on which he has sprayed a rather forlorn self-referential message: “Is that all there is?” I will make this the critical metatext of the exhibition. *Definition 2:* Fig. Fill or occupy excessively, become a hindrance. “It cluttered my life with pseudo-friendships” (Gide). “What’s the point of getting cluttered down with so many memories?” (Flaubert). The idea of mental, psychic clutter (Jean-Pierre Raynaud, Keith Tyson, Saverio Lucariello). *Sociology:* Clutter is without a doubt a major feature of contemporary societies (Arman, Mike Bouchet, Julien Berthier), and even one of its pathologies (Gilles Barbier). Indeed, it may not be objects that clutter things up so much as signs (Jacques Villeglé). Overinformation is the media symptom of opulence (Matthew Antezzo, Olav Westphalen). *A personal message:* all my best to Edouard, who does not know who he is. *Converse hypothesis:* clutter sometimes comes from a lack — of affection (Joachim Mogarra), of message (Vincent Lamouroux), or of understanding (Boris Achour). Like on the motorway, where distribution roads increase the risk of traffic jams (Alain Bublex). *Aesthetic:* clutter fights against the decorative dimension of a work of art, while increasing its obvious uselessness (Martin Kersels). The irony of it: a bulky shelf, bulky cupboards (Virginie Yassef, Bertrand Lavier). *Art market:* “You make money with the pieces you sell, you make a fortune with the ones you don’t sell” (gallerist Ileana Sonnabend, 1914-2007). *Temptation:* to myself clutter up the Vallois gallery by deciding to occupy the room usually offered as accommodation to artists during their exhibition. To wander through the gallery in my pyjamas in the middle of the day (Peter Land). To listen to hard rock upstairs in the eventuality of a buying commission coming in from the Fonds National d’Art Contemporain. To greet passing collectors fresh out of the shower, bare-chested with my towel slung low around my waist. Art criticism is clutter, a mongrel intellectual activity that is in decline. *Statement of intent:* a pastiche of *Paris, Musée du XXe siècle* by Thomas Clerc (L’arbalète, Gallimard), the book most occupying me at this moment in time.

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UPCOMING 2008

January - February :
Mike BOUCHET (USA)
Canburger



February - March :
Martin KERSELS (USA)



March - April :
Vincent LAMOUREUX (FR)



June - July :
Keith TYSON (UK)



Septembre - October :
Julien BERTHIER (FR)

November - December :
Julien BISMUTH (FR/USA)
Jacques VILLEGLÉ (FR)

