

ARTISTES FRIBOURGEOIS
STÉPHANE DAFFLON
HOMMAGE À BRUNO BAERISWYL ET À JACQUES SIDLER

August 31 through November 11, 2001

Homage to Bruno Baeriswyl and Jacques Sidler, two Fribourg artists who died recently

Bruno Baeriswyl (1941-1996) painted nature, including human nature, which he had observed attentively and gained an understanding of. His observations gave rise to evocative, representational, subjective and free forms, and colours that conjure up a visual alphabet which he used in an abstract idiom. Bruno mastered these forms in order to be able to 'play' with them, to communicate in a realm of complete freedom. He knew that relationships between colours and shapes are not the same in a snowy landscape, that they differ from spring to summer to fall. This knowledge endowed his compositions with a balance that is simple to see but difficult to analyse. Perhaps it is best described by the word aptness. Bruno Baeriswyl's approach to his work, to his own degree of awareness of and vision of the world was apt. That is why his works exude such freedom.

Fri-Art here presents works from Bruno's 'blue period' of the late 60s and early 70s. These usually feature shapes derived from the square - sometimes a very rounded one - linked by a rhythmic and forceful junction, a seeming nerve centre in which black predominates. They are set against a white background, a white space in which they unfold their full splendour. The 'nanas', one of the only figurative series created by Bruno Baeriswyl, are treated in the same manner as his other paintings: shapes that align freely and spontaneously to sketch a woman's body.

Outside of his native canton, Bruno Baeriswyl never won the recognition he deserved. I think this is above all due to the fact that he stayed here in Fribourg, a town that at the time lacked the capacity to project an artist beyond its boundaries.

Jacques Sidler (1948-1995), photographer and witness to the human condition, left a series of portraits to illustrate his approach. He also worked together with a number of artists, among them Roman Signer, actively contributing to document or conserve the traces of ephemeral works of art in photographs that themselves became artworks. Jacques Sidler brought an intense measure of attention and care to his subjects, mindful of the smallest detail down to the final stage of the blow-up. Unfortunately, we have no original prints on show here.

Stéphane Dafflon (1972) is one of a younger generation of artists who represent a new approach to painting. Painting is much too powerful a form of expression for it to simply disappear. Its power resides in its simplicity, i.e. a medium - gouache, watercolour, pigment, collage - on a surface. The result is pure illusion, figurative or abstract, with the nuances these two realms imply. Illusory they remain, but with what evocative power!

Stéphane Dafflon uses the computer to make his preliminary sketches and manipulate shapes and colours. His formal investigations are based on this sophisticated tool, which strongly influences the outcome and has generated new forms or compositions that were unthinkable before. As in contemporary music, the computer enables the artist to mix forms and come up with new 'hybrid' configurations and simple or complex compositions with a new 'rhythm'. The same procedure, by no means a simple one, is used for colour. The artist now deals with a difficult choice between a multitude of options at various levels - from purely formal investigations, through the realisation of the work, to its presentation.

Stéphane Dafflon makes use of various surfaces - canvas, walls and sculptural elements that stand on the ground or are wall-mounted. The pieces in this show feature the latter, his most recent form of presentation, and formal elements from various current art practices or attitudes of daily life shared by many contemporary artists. Whether he reaches for the essential, for the premisses, or just for the functional idea, Dafflon creates a specific and highly personal world in which we are free to move around. *"I try to produce an effect that highlights the intrinsic qualities of painting, while referring to images derived from the realm of the graphic arts, and consequently to industrial production methods"*.

En parallèle, expositions Bruno Baeriswyl au Musée d'Art et d'Histoire de Fribourg, rue de Morat 12,
et à la Galerie APC, Showroom BB, Rue Pierre-Aeby 37
Stéphane Dafflon, *Highway*, au CAN, Neuchâtel, du 15 [vernissage] au 28 septembre

During the show, *La Cuisine* will be open every Thursday evening. Information and reservations : 026 323 23 51
Thursday September 13 at 8 p.m. : Guided visit of the exhibition with Michel Ritter, director of FRI-ART
Sunday October 7 : Atelier de créativité pour enfants : Pacplanet for Kids →