

PRESS RELEASE – NOVEMBER 2009

# DELPHINE REIST

## 100 FLEURS ÉPANOUIES

Exhibition from 4 December 2009 until 24 January 2010

Preview on Friday 4 December starting at 6.30 pm



*Manifestation*, Reine Vernunft, Loge Stadtg  
Bern, Switzerland, 2009.  
Photograph courtesy Delphine Reist.

**Under a title alluding directly to the Hundred Flowers Campaign, a tragic episode of Maoist policy, the Geneva artist Delphine Reist has provided Fribourg's Contemporary Art Center with a show drawn from the core of her research. As such, it fits in perfectly with the former industrial building where her new group of works is to be presented.**

Delphine Reist has often vested commonplace sites where everyday life plays out—sites that share a lack of warmth, that are alike in their functional and soulless nature, in the greyness of their walls. One thinks of underground car parks, industrial wastelands: workplaces and passageways with a lackluster but broadly shared collective history.

The artist's works echo such spaces characterized by absence. Everyday objects are hybridized with tools, with viscous and odorous liquids, noisy engines; now and again, they spring to life for no apparent reason.

Hence, in the solitude of the sites, the elements that populate Delphine Reist's work seem to have conquered an existence of their own. Shopping carts take to revolving, cars start up with no one in the driver's seat, boarding school washbasins oddly fill up with milk... So many presences that end up being read as a kind of social body. Whether a ghostly reminder of long gone users or the hypothesis of a life led by objects, it makes no difference, for above and beyond the poetry of these "celibate machines", Delphine Reist's work takes on a clearly militant dimension. A form of latent violence can be seen in the more or less threatening expressions—from things escaping control, to guns aimed at each other. With megaphones on the ground or boots beating out a rhythm in a round, there always seems to be an underlying, throbbing, groaning struggle. We are made to understand all the better why the artist here refers to the episode of Maoist China during which, after a short interlude of feigned freedom of expression, the authorities soon reverted to one of the most sadly memorable clampdowns in history.

There is no banter to these pieces; instead, they invite our awareness of the tensions they convey. Tributes to past struggles or presences in-the-making, these works will find a special setting in the building occupied by Fri Art, a former cardboard factory and subsequent night shelter that, here and there, still features the odd reminder of its past uses.

## **DELPHINE REIST**

Lives and works in Geneva. Born 1970 in Sion.

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2008 *DELPHINE REIST*, Galerie Triple V, Dijon, France.  
*RAYON FRAIS*, University F. Rabelais car park and fine art school, Tours.
- 2007 *LA SALLE DE BAINS*, Lyons, France.
- 2006 *ROCAILLE*, Dépôt Art Contemporain, Sion, Switzerland.  
*VIDANGE*, Bellevue Entrepôts, Maison suspendue, Saint-Étienne, France.
- 2005 *RÉSONANCE BIENNALE DE LYON*, MAC, Pérouges, France.
- 2004 *ZOO*, Nouvelle Galerie, Grenoble, France.  
*STARGAZER*, Geneva, Switzerland.

### **JOINT EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)**

- 2009 *CHÂTEAU EN CHANTIER*, château d'Avignon, France.  
*ACTUAL FEARS 2*, CAN, Neuchâtel, Switzerland.  
*SWISS ART AWARDS*, Centre de foire de Bâle, Basel.  
*ELLES@CENTREPOMPIDOU*, Centre Georges Pompidou, permanent collection. Paris.  
*WHAT ELSE*, Villa du Parc, Centre d'art contemporain, Annemasse, France.  
*CE QU'IL S'EST PASSÉ*, Centre d'Art Bastille, Grenoble.  
*REINE VERNUNFT*, Loge Stadtgalerie, Bern.
- 2008 *ARTISSIMA 15*, Video lounge, Turin.  
*ESPACE BLANK*, Paris.  
*PRINTEMPS DE SEPTEMBRE*, Hôtel Dieu and Espace Écureuil, Toulouse.  
*BIENNALE DE GYUMRIE*, Armenia.  
*WEISSE NACHT*, WIK, Kiel, Germany.  
*SWISS ART AWARDS*, Centre de foire de Bâle, Basel.  
*LA DEGELEE RABELAIS*, Jau espace d'art contemporain.  
*THE FREAK SHOW*, Musée de la Monnaie, Paris.  
*SHORT CIRCUIT*, Galerie Kamchatka, Paris.  
*BEX & ARTS*, contemporary art triennial, Bex, Switzerland.  
*STARGAZER*, Geneva.  
*MANOEUVRES 1/3, 1%*, Sismondi secondary school, Geneva.

### **COLLECTIONS**

Collections of the G. Pompidou centre; FMAC (Geneva); MAMCO (O. Mosset coll.), Institut d'Art Contemporain Villeurbanne.

Further information and visuals on request.

### **PRESS CONTACT**

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### **OPENING TIMES**

Wednesday to Friday 12-6 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday 2-5 p.m.

Thursday evening, free admission 6-8 p.m.

Guided tours on request