

Press release
18.01.2010

BERTRAND GADENNE

Fragments of a World

From Noon to 6pm: inside the gallery

From 6pm to 2 am: projection on the gallery's shopfront-window

Opening on Friday 22nd January, 6pm

Exhibition: 22nd January – 13th March, 2010

The Jordan/Seydoux Gallery is pleased to present for the first time in Berlin the unusual and poetic luminous installations of the French artist Bertrand Gadenne.

Bertrand Gadenne likes to puzzle the viewer, to tackle his senses of perception, to question the "reality" of an image. Since 1983, coming from a background in experimental cinema, he has built unusual and striking projection mechanisms. Using light projections, he gives new birth to living beings and natural elements (water, stones), creating situations of magical charm, falling somewhere between daydream and the bizarre.

These ephemeral situations, which create ambivalent thoughts between humour and uneasiness in the viewer, and the fragile miracle of their visibility, are propitious to a meditation on our relation to reality, our presence in the world, its fragility, and its foreseeable disappearance.

We are not far here from the Surrealists' meanderings: the luminous apparitions became a mental construction, a food for thought. It might be just this that Bertrand Gadenne wishes to provoke: to play with our tranquil assurance, our sense of understanding the world, for an just one moment

The exhibition "Fragments of a World" is a two-part show:

– During the gallery's regular opening hours, viewers can discover the luminous installations in the half-light and a video.

– The second part of the show begins when the gallery is closed and the streets are dark: an astonishing projection on the gallery's shop-window.

Among the works presented in the gallery will be "Le Hibou" / "The Owl" (2005). "Le Hibou" is an apparition: an image, projected on a very big scale, with the giant animal facing us. As the viewer comes close, it stands up on its legs and makes itself taller, as if to frighten us. The illusion of bird's reality is what is looked for: the giant owl appears as something monstrous, all the more scary since it seems to be reacting to our presence. The animal's image is so realistic and naturalistic that for a brief moment the viewer believes, with good reasons yet unreasonably, that the encounter is really taking place.

Gadenne lives in Hellemmes-Lilles (North of France) and teaches at the École Régional des Beaux-Arts de Dunkerque. His work is frequently exhibited in museums, art centers and galleries in France and internationally, and most recently at the MAC, Sao Paulo (in 2009, the "Year of France" in Brasil), at the Art Today Museum, Beijing (China, 2008), at the Institut Français of Bremen (Germany, 2008), and at the LAAC, Dunkerque (France, 2008).