

RETROSPECTIVE BERNAR VENET

BERNAR VENET IN MAC LYON → 21.09.18 – 06.01.19
 OPENING: THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2018



Bernar Venet, *Effondrement: Angles*, 2012
 Steel - Site-specific dimensions
 Exhibition: Mücsarnok Kunsthalle, Budapest, Hungary, 2012
 Photo credit: Alexandre Devals / Archives Bernar Venet, New York



Bernar Venet, *Bigatti Raining*, 2012
 Acrylic on canvas
 Diameter: 243 cm
 Photo credit: Archives Bernar Venet, New York

Bernar Venet, retrospective 2019-1959

This exhibition presents a remarkable and previously unseen ensemble of 170 artworks, including Venet's early performances, drawings, diagrams, and paintings, as well as the photographs, sound works, films and sculptures that retrace 60 years of creation. This is the most ambitious retrospective ever devoted to the artist.

It aims to examine the different stages that led a certain young artist, of twenty years of age, at the beginning of the 1960s to seek to 'remove any form of expression contained in the artwork in order to reduce it to a material fact'. He then went on to appropriate astrophysics, nuclear physics and mathematical logic, and took a break of 5 years before finally returning, albeit unexpectedly, to his easel. These paintings were followed by sound works, poetry, and later by indeterminate lines, accidents, random combinations, and dispersions, culminating in the indefinite and curved lines of the monumental sculptures in Corten steel, dedicated to the urban space.

Bernar Venet's protean work remains little known today, partly because it is partially exhibited, in certain 'periods' or selected in terms of a specific medium (his works made using tar, and steel sculptures, etc.). Today, it deserves to be seen in its entirety so that the public can gain an insight into the scale, ambition, complexity, poetry and simplicity of his work.

When one retraces the artist's career, we uncover the context in which it was born (the appearance of happenings in 1959, Nouveau Réalisme [New Realism], Fluxus and the Nice School in the 1960s, the 'invention' of minimal and conceptual art in the United States, where Bernar Venet settled as early as 1966), as well as the relevance and quality of its creation. This is the aim of this retrospective.

The exhibition is curated by Thierry Raspail.

This exhibition is recognized as being of National Interest by the Ministère de la Culture/Direction générale des patrimoines/Service des musées de France. It benefits from financial support by the State.



SIMULTANEOUSLY:
 BERNAR VENET,
 CONCEPTUAL YEARS
 IN MAMAC NICE,
 EXHIBITION FROM 13.10.18
 TO 13.01.2019



Musée d'art contemporain
 Cité internationale
 81 quai Charles de Gaulle
 69006 LYON



T +33 (0)4 72 69 17 17
 T +33 (0)4 72 69 17 00
 info@mac-lyon.com
 www.mac-lyon.com

Press contacts:
 Muriel Jaby / Élise Vion-Delphin
 T +33 (0)4 72 69 17 05 / 25
 communication@mac-lyon.com