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Press
Release

JEAN-LUC MYLAYNE ALAN VEGA

Preview

Thursday May 14th, 2009

The artists will be present at the opening.

Opening hours

Wednesday - Sunday: 12am - 7pm.

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High resolution pictures (300 dpi) are available on request.

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musée
d'art contemporain
de Lyon

JEAN-LUC MYLAYNE

«Tête d'or»



Triptyque PO-64, septembre 2001-mai 2007, 123cm x 351cm. Photo credit : Jean-Luc Mylayne

Jean-Luc Mylayne was born in France in 1946.

Since 1976, he has been living as a nomad on the roads of France and all around the world, searching for birds to take pictures of. His quest deals above all with the meeting, intimate and furtive, with the bird. For thirty-three years, Jean-Luc Mylayne has produced only three hundred pictures, based on this privileged relationship. Each picture is the result of a long and patient preliminary work, made of observation and taming, and is printed, almost without exception, in one unique copy. Jean-Luc Mylayne, who defines himself as a movie director and describes birds as actors, composes his pictures around them. The structures and tonalities of what he calls his "paintings" are extremely precise: the artist takes into account a multitude of parameters such as the seasons and the hours of the day. If needed, he uses artificial lighting or calls in figurants. He takes a really specific care to frames, which he does not retouch, and to his focal distances, for which the lenses are essentially handmade. Several months of preparations can be necessary for one picture. The arrival of the bird at the place that was precisely planned for it represents the outcome of the picture. Jean-Luc Mylayne's process, his slow approach of a bird and the dialog he establishes with it, questions above all Time. Indeed, it is more the interval between the shootings than the clichés themselves that constitutes the phenomenological experience of his work.

(extracts from the Grand-Hornu's catalogue, 2004)

Invited in 2001 at the Lyon Biennial, Jean-Luc Mylayne exhibited a "painting" of an exceptional size. Curiously, the artist has not been offered many opportunities to show his work in France (Museum of Modern Art Saint-Etienne in 1991 and 1994, Museum of Modern Art Paris in 1995, Meteo Gallery in 1996). Since 1997, Jean-Luc Mylayne has shown regularly his work at the prestigious Barbara Gladstone Gallery in New York. In 2007, solo exhibitions were dedicated to him in several American Museums: Houston (TX), Seattle (WA), Cleveland (OH) and Urbana-Champaign (IL).

The mac^{LYON} dedicates two floors to the recent works of Jean-Luc Mylayne, with 71 unseen "paintings", specially produced for the occasion.

A 142-pages catalogue is published with the exhibition: generously illustrated (more than 80 coloured reproductions), it includes preface from Thierry Raspail and essays from Terrie Sultan and Rolf Rugoff.



Jean-Luc Mylayne, n°419, avril-mai 2007
123 cm x 153 cm
Photo credit : Jean-Luc Mylayne

ALAN VEGA

curator : Mathieu Copeland



Alan Vega, *Iron Man* (détail), 1983
Crédit photo Mathieu Copeland
Courtesy Alan Vega
Collection Ric Occasek, NY



Alan Vega, *AL'S BAR*, 1994
Lumière, fils électrique, bois, plastique, métal
122 x 190,5 cm
Crédit photo Alan Vega
Courtesy Alan Vega

Alan Vega was born in Brooklyn (NY) in 1948. He lives and works in New York.

Since the 70's, Alan Vega has been famous for being one of the minimalist electronic rock's pioneers, with the "Suicide" duo. Under this scene name, Vega and Martin Rev became the first musicians to introduce systematically the electronic drum's beat in their compositions. Their music is characterized by the use of binary rhythms, repeating motives, obscure and hypnotic keyboards and of whispering to yelling voices. They opened an infinite world of possibilities to the electronic music.

Visual artist before getting involved in music, Alan Vega founded in 1974 the "Project of living artists", a crazy "24 hours open a day" gallery located in Manhattan. Dedicated to art, music and cinema, the gallery quickly turned itself into a showcase for new bands such as The New York Dolls, Television and Blondie. In this as much buzzing as saturated background, Alan Vega launched simultaneously his musical and artistic career.

First focused on painting, his work has evolved with the integration of light. The "light sculptures" (assemblies of various objects, mostly light bulbs, lamps, neon of all colours and shapes) were born.

Living legend for alternative rock lovers, Alan Vega is less known for his plastic work.

The mac^{LYON} offers him his first retrospective.

Composed of luminous sculptures and a set of unseen drawings, it introduces more than 30 years of production.

Alan Vega will create a monumental luminous installation for the occasion.

A generously illustrated catalogue, including various interviews with Alan Vega and close artists, will be edited for the exhibition.



Alan Vega
Crédit : Earl Grey