

FRANÇOIS MORELLET, C'EST N'IMPORTE QUOI ?

47 rue Saint-Andr  des Arts
&
6 rue du Pont de Lodi
In collaboration with TADASHI KAWAMATA

29 March - 7 May 2014

After having juxtaposed his works with drawings by Kazimir Malevitch in 2011, Fran ois Morellet returns to occupy both of the galerie kamel mennour's spaces in the spring of 2014.

Devilishly mischievous, the exhibition's title, "Fran ois Morellet, c'est n'importe quoi ? [Does It Make Any Sense?]", questions us and alerts us to the touch of mischief that animates the artist's now well-known minimalist vocabulary of white monochromes, black lines, and neon lights all arranged under the auspices of mathematics. This neatly ordered world is actually subject to a generalized tremor of sorts, a kind of earthquake of saving grace.

In the series *Triptyque* (2014) and *Carr ment bricol * [Completely Cobbled Together] (2013), the diverse elements of the work give the impression of being broken apart by vibrations. This is the case, too, in *La D b cle* [The Debacle] (2013), where a large black line divides the painting like a Newmanian zip, almost recalling the sharp edges of Caspar David Friedrich's *The Sea of Ice*. As for the concentric circles of *Cruibes* (2013-14), they might be the materialization of this shockwave that turns the exhibition upside-down and extends far beyond the Rue Saint Andr  des Arts.

Indeed, at the Rue du Pont de Lodi, we step out onto a wooden footbridge specially designed by Japanese artist Tadashi Kawamata. This jetty allows us to venture out over an ocean of neon lights whose blinking creates a luminous swell. The undulations of light created by this work, initially designed in 2001 for the Zentrum f r Internationale Lichtkunst in Unna (Germany), bring the space to reel and sway in a vibrant tribute to Piet Mondrian's series of paintings entitled *Pier and Ocean* (1915).

Finally, an exceptional collection of works from 1949 will be on display at the space on Rue Saint-Andr  des Arts. Inspired by tribal art, and more specifically by aboriginal art, they were initially shown in 1950 at the Gallery Raymond Creuze, in Paris. Shedding light on its origins, these pieces allow us to appreciate the growth and the eternal, vibrating youth of Fran ois Morellet's work.

Born in 1926, in Cholet, Fran ois Morellet lives and works between Cholet and Paris. An internationally recognized artist since the 1970s, he is the creator of many private and public commissions both in France and abroad, such as the permanent installation *L'Esprit d'escalier*, realized in the Lefuel Staircase of the Mus e du Louvre in 2010.

His work has been exhibited in many venues, including the Centre Georges Pompidou, the Mus e d'Orsay, the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, the Mus e d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the Center for Fine Arts in Brussels, the SMAK in Ghent, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Mamco in Geneva, Documenta in Kassel, the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin, the Staatliche Kunsthalle in Baden-Baden, the Museum Ritter in Waldenbuch, Modern Art Oxford, the Mus e d'Art Contemporain de Montr al, the Brooklyn Museum in New York, the Miami Arts Museum, and the MoMA in New York.

Fran ois Morellet's exhibition is on show Tuesday through Saturday, from 11am to 7pm, in both gallery spaces: 47 rue Saint-Andr  des Arts and 6 rue du Pont de Lodi, 75006 Paris.

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