

PRESS RELEASE

The Pursuit of Pleasure

Latifa Echakhch e Lili Reynaud Dewar

Curated by Salvatore Lacagnina

Opening:

Sunday, November 8, 2009, 10 a.m.

The exhibition runs from November 9, 2009 through January 16, 2010

Exhibition venue:

Associazione Barriera

Via Crescentino 25, 10154 Turin, Italy

Opening times:

Mon-Fri 15-18 / Sat 10-13; closed on Sundays and public holidays

On the occasion of the third edition of "Breakfast at Barriera" and during Artissima, The International Fair of Contemporary Art in Turin, Barriera and the Istituto Svizzero di Roma present "The Pursuit of Pleasure. Latifa Echakhch and Lili Reynaud Dewar".

The interaction between genders, architecture, objects, social classes, different cultures, represents an open issue accompanying the two artists' research. Yet the visual solution of their works lead you to different territories.

Lili Reynaud Dewar presents two new sculpture works and a new video from the series "The Power Structures, Rituals and Sexuality of the European Shorthand Typists" (2009), inspired by a short frame from the movie *Petit à Petit* (1971) by French director and anthropologist Jean Rouch. The stereotyped characters of two women, one a young and blonde secretary and a typist, who is older, are inside two cages, made of natural wood. The first contains a small table with a typewriter on it, the latter a three-sided mirror. Reynaud Dewar's sculpture are precarious buildings, realized with simple hand-craft techniques; on the verge between scenography and sculpture, they were created as possible performance scenarios. The video, a documentary describing the two actresses/secretaries' gestures, represents an analysis of the work aesthetics, a research on the relationship between the female body (after it has suffered a change, due to social structures), objects and architecture. Every single object which is part of Reynaud Dewar's works sends us back to a practice that foresees its use, as if assigned to possible performances.

On the contrary, **Latifa Echakhch** empties objects of their meaning, depriving them of their main use, creating tools for an impossible performance. As it happens in *Micro vide* (2006), 3 tripods holding microphones without their mechanism, and in *Fantasia (Empty Flag)*, 2007, a series of poles without their flags, interweaving and jutting out from the wall. On this occasion, the sculpture, in an angle, depicts a squared volume in a dialogue between the wooden cages and it expands through a small sand desert. *Désert* (2005-2009), made of durum wheat semolina, covers part of the floor in the exhibition space, breaking its symmetry and at the same time underlining the visual balance of the show. As a homage to Helen Levitt, a common use object, such as a black plastic bag with plaster in it (*Untitled. In the Street*), 2008, closes the exhibition. A narrative counterpoint, that pushes the viewer out of the space, inside the streets of the city.

Latifa Echakhch combines traditional elements with social issues. The Marocco-born artist's installations play with the idea of space and with stereotypes linked to immigration. In 2009, Echakhch participated in Lyon Biennial 10. Her upcoming solo shows include MACBA, Barcelona; GAMeC Bergamo, Italy; FRI ART, Friburg; FRAC Champagne Ardenne, Reims; Swiss Institute, New York; Kunstverein Bielefelder. Latifa Echakhch was born in El Khnansa (MR) in 1974. She lives and works in Paris and Martigny (CH).

Lili Reynaud Dewar's sculptures and installations are often defined by geometrical elementary forms in which the artist inserts elements originating from graphics or design. She elaborates elements from the underground and African culture, from Western culture stereotypes, carrying out performances inspired by ritual acts. In 2010 a solo show by the artist will take place at FRAC Champagne Ardenne, Reims and a new performance will be hosted by Witte de With, Rotterdam. In 2009, CAPC in Bordeaux and the Centre d'Art contemporain Parc Saint Léger hosted two solo shows by Reynaud Dewar. She participated in the 5. Berlin biennial in 2008. Lili Reynaud Dewar was born in La Rochelle (FR) in 1975. She lives and works in Paris.

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