

2 autumn exhibitions:

Between You & Me, Antony Gormley
La précision des terrains vagues (extension), Jean-Michel Alberola
Musée d'Art Moderne de Saint-Etienne Métropole
Exhibitions from 11 October 2008 to 25 January 2009

The Musée d'Art Moderne de Saint-Etienne Métropole will be presenting two large-scale monographical exhibitions this autumn: Antony Gormley, *Between You & Me* et Jean-Michel Alberola, *La précision des terrains vagues (extension [The Precision of No Man's Land])*, from 11 October 2008 to 25 January 2009.

Antony Gormley was born in London in 1950. He achieved recognition in the early 80s and has become one of the main artists of the highly active contemporary London scene. Although he has had exhibitions in some of the most prominent museums around the world, ***Between You & Me*** is his first large-scale museum exhibition in France. The present exhibition was a collaboration with the Kunsthall in Rotterdam and the Artium in Vitoria (Spain) and the Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac (Paris). It brings together three monumental and major installations by this artist, whose work centres around the notion of the human body as the site of memory and transformation. His works are inspired by his own body. Thus, from the early 90s on he has been exploring the various relationships between the body, the presence of man, architectural and natural space and the environment, by means of monumental sculptural installations. His most well known and appreciated works are undoubtedly *Angel of The North* (a steel sculpture of an angel with a 54 m wingspan) and *Gateshead and Quantum Cloud on the Thames*, a public commission carried out in 2000 for the London Millenium Dome.

The present exhibition will be showing ***Field (1993-2001)***, made up of 40 000 terracotta pieces, measuring between 8 and 26 cm. They are compact hand-made silhouettes, leaning against each other in such a way as to totally saturate space at ground level. *Field* was created several times, on various continents: North America, Asia (China), Europe. The work is a collective creation. *Field* focuses on the notion of identity and the group. When the visitor sees *Field* for the first time, it is as if he crosses a forbidden threshold. These small human shaped statuettes possess a head and a torso, and what is most important, eyes that give them depth and consciousness.



Allotment (1995), in the main central room, is made up of 300 concrete blocks. Each of the blocks represent the bodily proportions of an inhabitant in Malmö in Sweden, aged 18 months to 80. There is a block for the body, a smaller block for the face, and holes representing each of the orifices. Here too, the core of the work is concerned with collective identity. The blocks are never placed at random, "and even though it may not be immediately apparent, the relationships between man and woman, between child and adult, are very precisely articulated".

Finally, ***Critical Mass II (1995)*** is made up of 60 cast iron pieces, based on 12 possible bodily positions (the foetus, the sitting present, standing figure etc). The cast pieces are unpolished, with a rough unfinished look. For the artist, they are an "anti-monument that evokes the victims of the 20th century". The work, which was originally intended to be installed in a former bus depot in Vienna, gives the impression of something dark and tragic. This is undoubtedly because of the way the pieces are isolated from each other, alone in this huge space.

For further information: www.antonygormley.com/

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Jean-Michel Alberola, a painter from the French movement *Figuration Libre* (of French nationality, he was born in 1953 in Saïda in Algeria) is concerned with the idea of "the end of painting" dear to the 20th century, by means of canvases and painted works directly onto wall surfaces. He is first and foremost a painter, but nevertheless uses multiple mediums in his works (photographs, postcards, *objets trouvés*, films and texts) in the search for links between reading, writing and the spoken word.

Jean-Michel Alberola's work is already present in the collections in the form of a



Contact presse : Alicia Treppoz-Vielle, +33 (0)4 77 91 60 40, a.treppoz-vielle@agglo-st-etienne.fr

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Musée d'Art Moderne de Saint-Etienne Métropole, BP 80241, 42006 Saint-Étienne cedex 1, www.mam-st-etienne.fr, 04 77 79 52 52

series of endings and drawings. For his first important museum exhibition in France for a long time, he will be offering, as a world premiere, **a suite of 7 mural paintings created onsite**. This will be a suite of images to be decrypted, simultaneously evoking mediaeval frescoes, posters and the graffiti that saturate the visual field of city dwellers.

The ensemble will be rounded out by **small format drawings and neon sign objects**, giving a glimpse of a world made up of a mixture of memory, irony, the human face, the spoken word, the message and the mystery. Drawing occupies a very important place in the many expression mediums used by Jean-Michel Alberola. Five of the drawings presented here belong to the Modern Art Museum. They were acquired recently. They are five gouache paintings on paper, created in 2002, from the "**Heimatlos**" [*Homeless*] series. The paintings are conceptualised portraits of people who were forced to become nomads, having lost their homes.

His **neon sculpture**, which spell out ambiguous words are part provocative prophecy, part political slogan and part of the kind of word play dear to Marcel Duchamp, investigate the nature of the slogan. The neon works combine political and artistic thinking, and force viewers to ask themselves questions about their relationship to the work of art and its commercialisation.

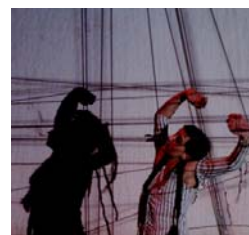
Wall paintings are a domain dear to Jean-Michel Alberola, considered by him to be a veritable creative media. The artist will cover the walls of the two halls at the Modern Art Museum with an immense fresco, the drawings for which are currently being prepared in his studio. By its nature, this work will be unique and ephemeral, and will cease to exist after the exhibition.

Catalogue to be available October 2008



Cultural programming: « OCCUPÉ » by the dance company 2000 et une tentations

This dance company, led by choreographer and dancer Noëlle Vydt, will be in residence at the Modern Art Museum throughout the entire Between You & Me exhibition. In the course of this residence, the choreographer will create and present a work entitled "Occupied". The project will be organised around two themes: cultural development actions intended for schools (both at the schools and at the Museum) and dance shows (with rehearsals in the halls).



The project will make it possible for the public to experience a creative dance project from its inception to its completion. The creative sessions and the rehearsals will be open to the public, in the exhibition halls, from October 6 to January 10, 2008, on Mondays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On **Sunday, November 9, at 3:30 p.m.**, the work in progress and the initial sections of the "Occupied" show will be presented to the public.

On **Sunday, December 14, at 3:30 p.m.** *la Compagnie 2000 et une tentations*, will be presenting a show intended for young spectators, "Hop la dans tes pas" [*"spaces in your paces"*].

On **Sunday, January 11, at 3:30 p.m.**, the « **OCCUPÉ** » show will be performed at the Museum, prior to the close of the Gormley exhibition on January 25.



>>> From November 15 to January 25, 2009, a design collection in the framework of the *carte blanche* invitation to the Swiss artist John M. Armleder. He will choose from among the 1200 pieces preserved at the Modern Art Museum.

Hours

Wednesday to Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed on January 1, May 1, July 14, August 15, November 1, and December 25.

Guided visits

Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. Sundays and holidays at 11 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Guided tours every day at 2:30 p.m. throughout school holidays.

Pricing

Entry: 4,50 € / Special price: 3,70 €
Entry with guided tour: 6 € / Special price: 4,50 €
Free for children under 12.
Free to all visitors on the first Sunday of each month.

Cultural programming www.mam-st-etienne.fr agenda rubric

Postal Address

Musée d'Art Moderne
de Saint-Etienne Métropole
La Terrasse
BP 80241
42006 Saint-Etienne cedex 1

GPS Address and Route

Rue Fernand Léger
42270 Saint-Priest-en-Jarez

Tél. +33 (0)4 77 79 52 52

Fax +33 (0)4 77 79 52 50

mam@agglo-st-etienne.fr

www.mam-st-etienne.fr

Contact presse : Alicia Treppoz-Vielle, +33 (0)4 77 91 60 40, a.treppoz-vielle@agglo-st-etienne.fr

