



Las Hilanderas, Diego Velázquez, 1657

Las Hilanderas

Exhibition
from Sept. 17 to Dec. 17, 2016

Wednesday – Saturday, 2 – 7 pm
and by appointment

Contexts presents four women artists who show women who wait, leave, pass down, order following to the pace of life with strength, cheerfulness and commitment. Three of the videos in this exhibition stem from commissions emanating from groups of women who decided to speak out in the public space by means of a work of art. The video recording of a comforting performance by Brigitte Seth and Roser Montlló Guberna completes our selection:

***Figures imposées (Compulsary Figures)*, Bertille Bak ***

***Le Geste Exilé (Gesture in Exile)*, Pascale Houbin ***

***Andrekale*, Sra. Polaroiska ***

***Partenza*, Renata Poljak**

* The New Patrons' programme, initiated by the Fondation de France, allows citizens confronted with issues around the community or the development of a territory, to associate contemporary artists with their concerns by commissioning a work of art. Its particularity lies in a new conjunction between three main actors: the artist, the citizen commissioner and the cultural mediator, supported by the public and private sponsors gathered around the project.

On the television screen:

• ***Coûte que coûte*, Brigitte Seth and Roser Montlló Guberna.**

Video recording of the performance *Coûte que coûte*, 35 mn • 2016

+ a poem by **Miquel Martí i Pol** (1929 – 2003)

A prologue which simultaneously presents a state of the world and questions happiness. An inexhaustible, endless, looped prologue...

Two presenters/storytellers play this duality up to the absurd. A spoken and danced dialogue, *Coûte que Coûte* takes place just prior to the art work, on the limit between the stage and the spectators, on the verge of breakdown.

The times are crazy which enforce on so many people an unspeakable fate. Even the most cunning get out of breath and die in this world ruled by austerity. Is happiness possible despite everything? What is happiness? Does it have a color, particular clothes, a dance? The dance of happiness? Are we taught the movements, the tempo of this dance? The body tells the unspeakable and expresses the duality: rise and fall, tension and disappearance, apnea and tranquility, agitation and stillness... With a repetitive movement with multiple accents, the two performers announce ceaselessly hope, as well as the apocalypse, or the secrets of a happy change finally revealed, behind the stage curtain, one day...

CONTEXTS

Victoire Dubruel • Mari Linnman • Pierre Marsaa

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Projection:

• **Figures imposées, Bertille Bak**

video, 15' • 2015

Figures imposées (Compulsary Figures) deals with the condition in which migrants are left, a crucial subject in this beginning of the XXIth century. Bertille Bak creates a symbolic, sometimes dreamlike, or ironic mental place. Certain images linger over immobilized bodies and refer to statues, whereas others, as in the last sequence, show physical exercises : crawling in a ploughed field along the highway, with the trucks driving by against the great flow of people ...

A commission from the House of the Women du Hédas in Pau, produced within the framework of the New Patrons' programme initiated by the Fondation de France, and mediated by pointdefuite. With the financial support of the Fondation de France, the Direction régionale des Affaires culturelles d'Aquitaine, the Conseil régional d'Aquitaine and the Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso.

• **Partenza, Renata Poljak**

video, 10'21" • 2016

At the beginning of the 20th century, men from Croatian islands frequently migrated to South America escaping hunger and looking for a better life. The women stayed at home waiting for them to come back. Entitled Partenza (in the Croatian dialect spoken on the islands, the same Italian word is used for departure), this video connects two emigrant stories: the Croatian one, from the beginning of last century, and the African one, from the beginning of this century.

• **Le Geste Exilé, Pascale Houbin**

video, 17'50" • 2015

Faced with the potential language barrier between the elder and the young ones, Pascale Houbin suggested making a film about the transmission of gestures, vehicles for the passing down of cultures, traditions, know-how, but also simple daily actions. "The thread of the project lies in the moving body and more specifically in the hands. *Le Geste Exilé* is a poetic testimony of this infinite unfolding of daily gestures – gestures which, fully inhabited by the elders, are going to be passed down onto the young ones; gestures which, profoundly humane, allow one to access interpersonal relationships. The gesture is both an imitation and an introduction".

A commission from the association Travesias in Rennes, produced within the framework of the programme New Patrons initiated by the Fondation de France and mediated by Eternal Network. Sponsored by the Fondation de France, the Fondation Daniel et Nina Carrasso and the CUCS, City of Rennes.

• **Andrekale, Sra. Polaroiska**

video, 22'45" • 2016

In the Basque city of Hernani, "Andrekale" is the name of a street, "The street of the Women". A legend wants that this name refers to the story of three women who once lived there, Ekhine, Kandela and Pantxa. Today still, some inhabitants of Hernani say they see them occasionally.

A commission from the group Kalandria of Hernani (Euskadi, Spain), produced within the framework of the New Patrons' programme initiated by the Fondation de France, and mediated by Arتهazia - Asociación Innovación Cultural, Artes y Sociedad. With the support of the Internacional Center for Contemporary Culture of Donostia/San Sebastián – Tabakalera, the City of Hernani, the Fondation de France, The Basque Government « Fabrique de créations » programme and the Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso.

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