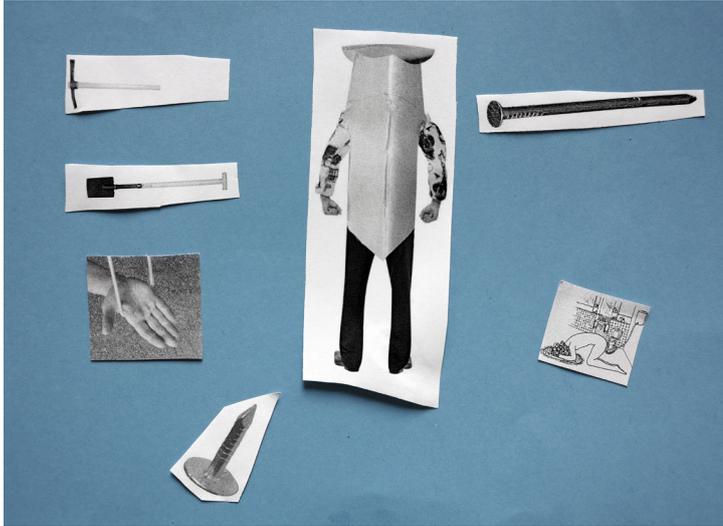




CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN LA SYNAGOGUE DE DELME

Press release



ZBYNEK BALADRAN
DEAD RECKONING

EXHIBITION

10.07.2014 - 21.09.2014

PREVIEW WITH THE ARTIST
WEDNESDAY 9 JULY, 6PM

VISIT WITH MARIE COZETTE
SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER, 4PM

Through films, diagrams, drawings and texts, Zbynek Baladran offers various systems of knowledge representation. He uses these forms to convey concepts and ideas, but it is also a way of giving our senses more direct access to them, as well as a means of combining philosophical questions with poetical and visual modes of transmission.

The work that opens the exhibition consists of a serpentine sculpture made of pieces of paper that spread through the space at eye-level. Zbynek Baladran turns us into active readers, because one has to move, crane one's neck, step forward or step back in order to read and understand the meaning of the words printed on the ribbons. Like a line of thought that the artist would like to make tangible, the installation is something of a mental diagram, a labyrinthine cartography made up of superimpositions that intentionally splinter, fragment and put holes in discourse.

Many of the works of Zbynek Baladran (born in Prague in 1973) are infused with the inner doubts and resistance experienced by the generation that lived through the historical, political and social upheavals of the countries of the former Soviet bloc after 1989. The feeling of inadequacy and dislocation provoked by a highly paradoxical freedom, offered by a so-called democratic world, ended up producing what the artist calls "mental spasms". More than just disenchantment, it was a kind of profound helplessness that took hold of the everyday life of this generation, which oscillated between the desire to adapt to a new liberal, individualistic environment and the search of a new sense of the common.

In his most recent films, these questions are still central. Using minimal resources with a DIY spirit, Zbynek Baladran compiles a variety of images taken from the grey, apathetic media flow. He reconstructs these heterogeneous sources while lending them the rhythm of his own manipulation. There is no obvious correlation between the array of images and the voiceover text. The working method he uses involves continual misunderstanding and contradiction, as the exhibition title suggests.

In fact, *Dead Reckoning* is a technical term that designates the calculation of a vehicle's position based on the distance travelled from its point of departure. Alongside the data used (such as speed), dead reckoning incorporates more fluctuating parameters like wind and sea currents. Reflecting this paradoxical science, whose purported objectivity incorporates error and uncertainty, the installation and two films produced by Zbynek Baladran for the Synagogue de Delme stem from the same navigation method.

The films *Dead Reckoning* (produced for the exhibition) and *The microscope and telescope of Time* (2013) are products of the artist's research, which revolved around identifying the symptoms and contradictions that affect society as a whole. Paranoia, anxiety, hysteria and psychosis are the modern, internalised individual translations of a broader historical trauma in which class struggle, colonization and consumerism all clash.

Marie Cozette

ZBYNEK BALADRAN

Zbynek Baladran is an artist, author and curator.

His recent solo exhibitions have been presented at: Frieze Projects, London (2013), Galerie Jocelyn Wolff (2013), Kunstverein (Milano) (2012), Castillo/Corrales, Paris (2008). He has also participated in the following group exhibitions: Film as Sculpture, Wiels, Brussels (2013); Nouvelles impressions de Raymond Roussel, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2013); the Seoul Biennale; the Rennes Biennale (2012); Cartographies, La Caixa, Barcelona; Du monde clos à l'univers infini, Le Quartier, Quimper (2012); the Lyon Biennale (2011); Erudition Concrète 3, Le Plateau – Frac Ile de France, Paris (2010)...

He represented the Czech Republic at the Venice Biennale in 2013.

In 2001 he founded Galerie Display in Prague, which merged with the research and exhibition platform Tranzit in 2007. In 2010 he was one of the curators of Manifesta 8 in Murcia, Spain. With curator Vit Havranek he conceived the research project Monument to Transformation, guided by a central question: what consequences has the fall of the iron curtain had on society and artistic imagination over the past twenty-plus years, and how should the story of these upheavals be told today?

Zbynek Baladran was born in 1973 in Prague where he lives and works. He is represented by Jocelyn Wolff Gallery in Paris, by Nadine Gandy Gallery in Bratislava and by Hunt Kastner Gallery in Prague.

EXHIBITION-RELATED EVENTS

Book:

Dead Reckoning will be published at the end of July.

64 pages - texts in French and English, by Zbynek Baladran and curator and art critic François Piron.

Guided tour with Marie Cozette > Sunday 21 september, 4pm

Free entrance.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

Wednesday-Saturday: 2-6pm, Sunday: 11am-6pm.
The Art Centre will be closed on August 15th.
Free entrance.
Guided Tour every Sunday at 4pm.

PRESS

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Visuals available on request

LOCATION AND ACCES

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www.cac-synagoguedelme.org

FROM PARIS (by train 90 mins):
TGV Est, get off at Metz or Nancy
FROM METZ (by car, 30 mins):
D955, formerly route de Strasbourg
FROM NANCY (by car, 30 mins):
N74 towards Château-Salins
then D955 towards Metz

La synagogue de Delme Centre for Contemporary Art is grateful for support from the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Lorraine contemporary art authority (DRAC), the regional and departmental governments of Lorraine and Moselle, and the municipality of Delme.

La synagogue de Delme Centre for Contemporary Art is a member of DCA-Association pour le Développement des Centres d'Art.