

press release
SUPRA-CONTINENT
Cécile Hartmann

Nuit Blanche on 2 October 2010
Opening on Saturday 9 October 2010
3 October — 28 November 2010

What guides poetic thinking is the persuasion that even if the living is subject to the ruin of time, the process of deterioration is at once that of a crystallization; the fact is that in the depths of the seas where what formerly lived founders and dissolve, certain things "suffer from a marine alteration" and survive in new and crystallized forms which are immunized against the elements, as if they were awaiting the pearl fisher who will one come towards them and take them back to the world of the quick...

Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*, 1958

With her solo show *SUPRA-CONTINENT*, Cécile Hartmann conjures up the geographical hypothesis of the common surface formed by the continents before their present-day drift. In a global contemporary world in a state of perpetual fragmentation, the exhibition questions not the utopia of a shared earth, but the representation of a "being-in-common" that is unstable and indeterminate.

If continental drift is a tectonic movement of separation, and wrenching-free, it is also a moment of liaisons of structures and energy distribution. Echoing this telluric mechanics, the exhibition comes across like a force field. Between the works on view climatic influences are at work, and a question emerges: is it possible to conceive of an exchange surface between environment and social arena?

The works contain the idea of a resistance peculiar to matter. The altered expanse of ice might be seen as the complementary surface of a social fracture, and may contain, in the unforeseeable cast of its sparkles, other "forms of counter-power".

The series of photographic images called *Variations* (2010) is based on shots of movements of freezing and thawing. Through an inversion from positive to negative, these white images move towards uncertain zones. The film *Manifest, versus vital* (2010) proceeds from an aesthetics of reconstitution. It consists in getting an anonymous figure in a wild natural setting to re-enact, over and over again, in a loop, the violent gestures of an urban protester. The signs between the works answer each other in an atmosphere of suspense and low-level tension. The shot involving fluid and repetitive streaking of the filmed images, and the amplification of the vertical formats of the frozen images, develop a physical sensation of closeness and immersion in a "meta-real territory". An anthracite colour, crossed by hot and cold shades, spreads over the works like a neutral zone which calls to mind the texture of steam or carbon mist, elements common to the vegetable, animal and mineral world.

Cécile Hartmann's photographs, films and pictorial objects, operate like "dialectical leitmotifs". Through processes of shift and mix, her researches never pit construct versus organicness, ultra-modernity versus archaicness, and humanness versus animality. This artist's particular vision consists in grasping in the representation of contemporary ecological and geopolitical forms of powerplay, "a form of pictorial regeneration". This vision brings in notions of neutrality and fiction.

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free admission
friday, saturday, sunday
2 pm — 5 pm and appointment.
Disabled and wheelchair access
to the site.

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Art center highlights:

Nuit blanche in Chelles, Saturday 2 October from 5 pm till midnight

Event planned by the City of Paris and in collaboration with the Conseil Général de Seine-et-Marne.

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Opening, Saturday 9 October 2010 from 11.30am

On this special day, we plan a journey from Paris in collaboration with the Centre Photographique d'Île-de-France in Pontault-Combault.

— Group show in the CPIF:

Nulle part est un endroit

Ziad Antar, Leo Fabrizio, Yan Gao, Karim Kal, Benoît Laffiché, Angèle Laissue, Sébastien Leseigneur, Francis Morandini, Guillaume Robert, Anne-Lise Seusse, Marie Velardi, et Wen Yang-Liu.

Guest curator Pascal Beausse

From 9 October till 19 December 2010.

— Journey information:

Free bus, booking on +33 [0]1 64 72 65 70

or leseglises@chelles.fr

> Paris/Chelles: departure at 10.45am, from Paris – Bastille

> Chelles/Pontault-Combault: departure at 2pm from les églises, arrival at 2pm at CPIF

> Pontault-Combault/Paris: departure at 4.30pm from CPIF, arrival in Paris – Bastille at 5pm.

NB: People who would like to get back in Paris after visiting les églises can easily take a train from Chelles station.

(5 minutes walking through the park, then 15 minutes by train).

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Conference: Saturday 6 November in Chelles, 3pm

— Discussion around Cécile Hartmann solo show *SUPRA-CONTINENT*, with the artist, art critics and curator Éric Degoutte.

Free admission.

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