

MODELS

Xavier Veilhan

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© Xavier Veilhan / Adagp, Paris, 2014
Photography : diane arques / Adagp, Paris, 2014

A major figure of the international art scene, Xavier Veilhan has developed an approach in line with both formal classicism and high technology. His works come in multiple forms (sculpture, photography, performance, video, environment, exhibition, etc.) and question the way images are composed and presented.

This is the first time that the models featured at the Turbulences - Frac Centre are shown outside the artist's studio or the sets of his films and performances. They are neither artwork nor really models, but sheer construction exercises which stem from a research process that is free from all predetermination. As bearers of potential creations, these abstract objects can be seen as the skeletons of figurations to come.

The poorness of the materials and construction methods provide a counterpoint to the drafting process that the artist carries out on screen before final crafting. Through their simplicity and freedom of their implementation, these multiple versions reintroduce the question of a third dimension.

These artefacts prolong the research on modernist space and constructivist aesthetics that irrigates Xavier Veilhan's creative work. The slender shapes, open structures, and parabolas of the 3D drafts evoke both algorithmic representations and the icons of modernism, from Naum Gabo to the Philips Pavilion designed by Le Corbusier and Iannis Xenakis, and from the Sternberg brothers to Mathias Goeritz.

The exhibition reveals the proximity between these objects and historical and contemporary works from the Frac Centre's collection, from David George Emmerich's researches on morphogenesis to Biothing's digital experimentations.

The way the "Models" are presented evokes the exhibition of Russian constructivist works at the third Obmokhu show in May 1921, which, among others, featured Loganson's tensile structures.

Arranged in an original scenography, midway between a cabinet and a workshop, Xavier Veilhan's "Models" reveal the artist's taste for research and experimentation.

BIOGRAPHY

Xavier Veilhan was born in 1963 and lives and works in Paris. He successively trained at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris (1982-1983), the Hochschule der Künste in Berlin (with Georg Baselitz) and the Institut des Hautes Etudes en Arts Plastiques in Paris, under the supervision of Pontus Hulten (1989-1990).

His work has been shown in major institutions worldwide and has been the subject of many monographic exhibitions. In 2009, he set up a large-scale exhibition at the Château de Versailles.

He has collaborated with artists of all backgrounds, such as Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Daniel Buren, Sébastien Tellier, and the band AIR.

Since 2012, he has developed "Architectones", a series of exhibitions that highlight the permanent dialogue between art and architecture, and the title of which is a tribute to Kazimir Malevich. On the occasion of this project, he invested various landmarks of modernist heritage: in Los Angeles, Richard Neutra's VDL Research House(1932-1964), Pierre Koenig's CSH 21 (1958), and John Lautner's Sheats Goldstein Residence (1963); in France, the MAMO on the roof of Le Corbusier's Radiant City in Marseille, and Claude Parent and Paul Virilio's Sainte Bernadette du Banlay Church in Nevers (1966); in Moscow, the Konstantin Melnikov's Melnikov House (1929).

He brought this series to a close with Mies van der Rohe's Barcelona Pavilion (1929). An "Architectones" catalogue published by SPA (Los Angeles) will be released in October 2014, alongside an identically named full-length film directed by François Combin/URUBU.

His latest performance, "SYSTEMA OCCAM" (created in 2013), revolves around a composition by Eliane Radigue, and will be presented from 13th to 16th September in the gardens of the Eugène Delacroix Museum (Paris).

Xavier Veilhan is represented by the Perrotin Gallery, Andréhn-Schiptjenko (Stockholm), and 313 Art Project (Seoul).

ASSOCIATED EVENT

AT THE TURBULENCES

Saturday 17th January

5:00pm

TURBULENT SATURDAY

CARTE BLANCHE TO XAVIER VEILHAN

Projection of François Combin's film "Architectones", followed by a discussion between Xavier Veilhan, François Perrin, and Jean-Louis Cohen, who will retrace the artist's series of exhibitions in iconic venues of modern architecture.



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OPENING DAYS AND HOURS

Wednesday to Sunday : 12pm-7pm
Late night opening until 8pm every first Thursday of the month
Exceptional Closure : 25th December, 1st January and 1st May



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