

Press release

O! WATT UP, OF WATTEAU AND THEATER
MAISON D'ART BERNARD ANTHONIOZ, NOGENT-SUR-MARNE
FROM MAY 18th TO JULY 23rd 2017

The Maison d'Art Bernard Anthonioz of Nogent-sur-Marne is delighted to present the group show entitled *O! Watt up, Of Watteau and Theater* from May 18th to July 23rd.

In 1721, painter Antoine Watteau died in Nogent-sur-Marne. On the pretext of his supposed death on the estate, the art center, which park was listed on the basis of this legend, chose him as the tutelary figure of a summer exhibition dedicated to contemporary artists, painters or not : Anne Brégeaut, Alex Cecchetti, Patrick Corillon, Kris Knight, Maude Maris, Ad Minoliti, Anne Laure Sacriste, and Emmanuelle Villard.

Through the prism of this legend and leaving the *Fêtes Galantes* aside – the location of the Maison d'Art Bernard Anthonioz being enough a reference – the invited artists directly or indirectly explore the topic of the *theatron* – as did Watteau about three centuries earlier. As a place where people come to watch, it also raises a dual issue in that it is both a place of representation of reality and a sham, which (re)plays, mimics and puts distance with the latter. At the same time, it works like a magnifying glass of the world. While theater refers to representation, this Watteau-inspired exhibition intends to reflect on the representation of representation and questions the recurrence of theater as a topic, a characteristic, and a form in contemporary plastic creation. Even though a place intended for group experience, transmission, education and entertainment, one should not however forget its subversive nature, in that it also facilitates the distortion and twist of values. Eminently dangerous it would seem.



Kris Knight

Yesterday's boy, 2016

Oil on canvas

18 x 14 inches

Courtesy of the artist and the Galerie Alain Gutharc

Kindly loaned by a collector, an original drawing of Watteau displayed at the entrance of the exhibition will work as a reminder of the extraordinary story behind the listing as a historic monument of this Nogent-sur-Marne estate at the beginning of the 20th century, given to the state by the Smith-Champion sisters in 1944, and today managed by the FNAGP.

In 2006, the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques (FNAGP) opened the Maison d'Art Bernard Anthonioz (MABA) in Nogent-sur-Marne, an art center dedicated to the promotion and presentation of contemporary art, as well as experimental projects.

The foundation organizes four exhibitions every year mostly focused on photography and graphic arts revolving around history and memory, territory and environment, as well as cinematographic representation.

The Maison d'Art Bernard Anthonioz, member of the Tram Île-de-France network, is involved in an active policy regarding its public and offers a wide variety of cultural events around its exhibition programming.

Exhibition from May 18th to July 23rd, 2017

Curator: Caroline Cournède, Director of the MABA

Wednesday May 17th

Press visit at 2:30pm

Opening from 6pm to 9:30pm

Exclusive performance by Alex Cecchetti at 7:45pm

A digital book about *O! Watt up* will be published at the éditions Art Book Magazine/ABM Distribution in May 2017. abm-distribution.com

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Open to the public on weekdays from 1pm to 6pm

Saturdays and Sundays from 12pm to 6pm

Closed on Tuesdays and public holidays

Free entrance

Access

RER A: Nogent-sur-Marne then bus 114 or 210, stop at Sous-préfecture

RER E: Nogent-Le Perreux then direction Tribunal d'instance

Metro line 1: Château de Vincennes then bus 114 or 210, stop at Sous-préfecture

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Visuals available on request



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