

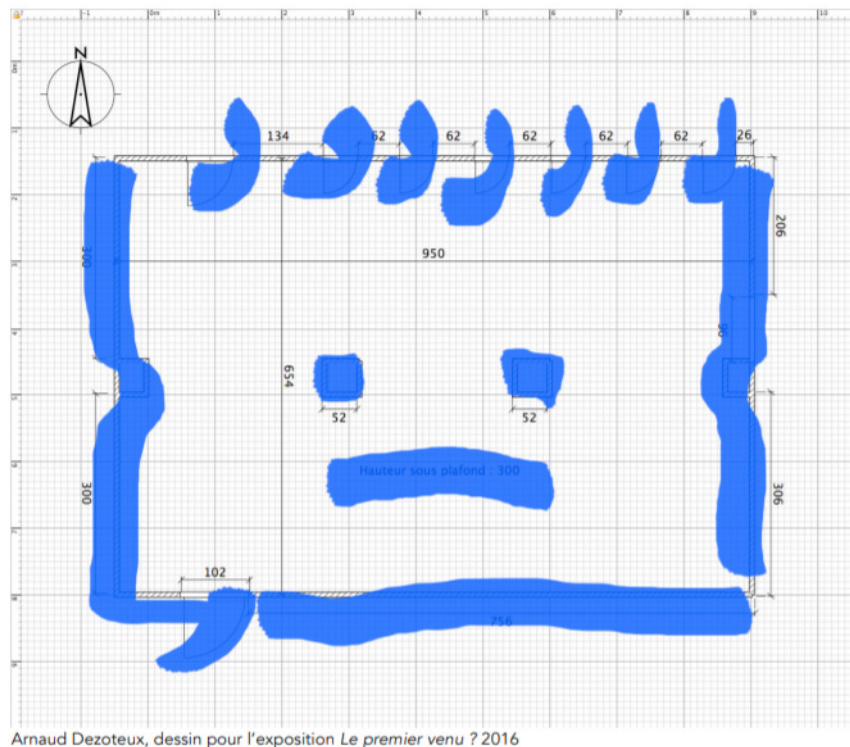


LE PREMIER VENU ?

MATEUSZ CHOROBSKI

Commissaire d'exposition: Arnaud Dezoteux

10/06/17 - 20/07/17



Arnaud Dezoteux, dessin pour l'exposition *Le premier venu ?* 2016

As of September 15, 2016 :

I am not a curator, hardly a filmmaker, an artist rather. To fill up my time and earn a living, I give courses in motion design, a somewhat obscure discipline, between graphics, video and special effects.

Very often, when I am invited to express myself, I think first of what I don't want to say rather than what I aspire to. That's how I react by exclusion, as Atro would say in *Les Dispossessed* of Ursula Le Guin. It may be the evil of the time, but it doesn't matter because I decided to be an artist, which gives me a social framework and forces me to adhere to certain conventions. Conventions that I have the pleasure to complain about, to reject, to accept in the end. It keeps me alive, it gives me strength. As a result, I don't collapse into bitterness and commentary, I propose forms or experiences, I then claim them, regret them and sometimes blame them.



For the time being, I can therefore say what I don't intend to do at the Bains-Douches as a commissioner. I don't want to do a group exhibition, I'm not sensitive to it and I don't understand how it is done. I have no idea how to assemble works under a theme or a problem, create rhythms in space, reading tracks and dialogues between works.

I respect that in curators - I enjoy going to exhibitions as a spectator - but I'm too unable of it. On the one hand, because I'm not close enough to contemporary current events. I don't go to American blogs, I don't buy Flash Art. On the other hand, because I'm afraid to act as an imitator. Out of ignorance, I am afraid of playing a game that is not mine, and of producing an exhibition that would look like a Group Show caricature.

I will therefore make the exhibition as I would make a video with a green inlay background, my trademark:( , using a superior reason (the exhibition) as a pretext to measure myself against the demands of another artist.

What I want is to take advantage of the authority of its deadline (the opening) to spend time with her or him, to confront myself with his or her ideas, his or her modes of production. Again, I don't want to exhibit one of my friends, or someone whose work is similar to mine, quite the contrary. Perhaps the simplest thing would be to take the first one who comes along. I think back to Jacques Doillon's film and I still find this method of selection most charming. Perhaps we should take the first person who comes along and confront his desires.

#### Synopsis of the film *Le premier venu* by Jacques Doillon (2008)

The daughter is in her twenties, she comes from a middle-class background. She seeks to give a little light and lightness to her life, which she sees as very insufficient and useless. Without the intensity that is necessary. She decides to give her love. Not to the most attractive, nor the most deserving or the most admirable, no, those do not need of her, she will give her love to the "first come".

With the artist, we'll do everything together, from A to Z: meet, exchange, propose, criticize, and to fight, to reconcile, to create, to destroy, to expose. Maybe in the end there won't even be a work left, or the artist will invite others. Maybe there will only be one film documenting our relationship, maybe not. We don't know, and this is the Holy Grail of life in the present tense: to move forward groping, without visibility, without overwhelming convictions.

As of May 10, 2017:



Very quickly after writing this first text, I came face to face with "The First Coming". His name is Mateusz Choróbski and he is of Polish origin. I met him by chance at my friend's opening in Warsaw. I didn't speak to him directly, but I made sure I knew who he was. By doing research on Facebook, I was soon able to write to him. Here is my first message, written in a very good English, and her answer, fortunately positive.

The exchange dates from March 19, 2017:

Arnaud Dezoteux :

Dear Mateusz Chorobski, I'm not sure if you remember me. My name is Arnaud Dezoteux and I'm a french artist. We actually met very quickly on september 2016, when Charlie Malgat (video artist and also my girlfriend) was doing an exhibition at ROD in Warsaw. If I'm contacting you right now, it is not because of my artistic pratice, but rather because I'm curating a show in France, in a art center called « Les Bains Douches » in Alençon. When the director of the art center asked me to curate an exhibition, I proposed a quite radical theme : to take the first artist that I would meet after having written my proposal of the exhibition. I wrote it on the middle of September 2016, and I think I met you maybe two weeks after that. I am not a curator and I don't pretend to be one. I usually work on video pieces and installations, involving actors and stories (somewhere between french Nouvelle Vague and cheesy Science Fiction). I'm not sure if we spoke together when we met, and I don't know anything about your art practice. I just remember that you were talking to Charlie about your work and your friend's works. That was at night, and we were having a wonderful barbecue with Lukasz, Magdalena and your others friends. I was a bit drunk and also tired of speaking english all day long. If I remember well, I was sitting between you and Charlie and not really listening to the conversation. I was in the same kind of mood that we are during vacations (I was actually in vacations, like any tourist in Poland!), distracted and happy. I also hadn't been thinking about my exhibition project for a few days. While we were sitted, you and Charlie talking together, I suddenly came back from my touristic amnesia to think of my curatorial project : working with the first artist that I would meet. Of course, I could choose other people but I didn't



want to take some of my friends, or artists that I knew I would meet. My goal was to take someone I don't know and whose artistic practice is not related to mine. So, as I was thinking of the project, I looked at you (through the light of the candles) and understood that you'd be the artist. I kept it secret for several months and now I'm sharing it with you! Would you agree to be part of this project ? Of course I imagine that you must feel a bit surprised about this strange invitation but it is very serious and sincere. Actually, I'm very excited to propose this show to an artist that I don't know, instead of choosing in my network or people whom I follow the work. It deals with the chances of life, with something poetic and ephemeral. To begin, I think the best thing would be, If you accept it, to talk about what we could do together, and of course to talk about your own practice. I know that we don't have so much time to work, and maybe you're really busy for the moment (I could send you this message a few months ago, even If I was a bit scared...), but I hope we'll make it !

Here is my email address: [arnaud.dezoteux@gmail.com](mailto:arnaud.dezoteux@gmail.com)



Mateusz Choróbski :

Dear Arnaud, Firstly, I have to admit it is the weirdest invitation I have ever got and I love it. Thank you for that. I'm all in. As you mentioned, there is not much time but it is enough to create a good exhibition (with a barbecue of course:)). The other thing - around 24 of June I'm going for 2 weeks for another art project in Tokyo. So, if your project is planned for June, then it must happen before 24. I have checked the space, it's very nice. Could you send me photos of the Les Bains Douches from outside as well (maybe there is some kind of the courtyard or backyard?). What kind of building it is? A new one or old one? How the entrance to the gallery looks like? Etc. The context of the space is importance for my realization. If you don't know my practice, then I will send you some materials. Firstly, my website: <http://www.mateuszchorobski.com/> there is no work, only links. An interview: <http://theforumist.com/go-east/> And maybe it is enough for the beginning. To sum up, let's do it! best, mc