

Alice Theobald

Il y aura...

February 3rd - 26th, 2022

Gaudel de Stampa presents *Il y aura...*, a new film installation by Franco-British artist Alice Theobald (b. 1985).

A combination of multiple artistic forms is inherent to Theobald's work and this new work brings together performance, film, installation and music.

Starring French actor Thibault de Montalembert (*Call my Agent, My Sex Life... or How I Got Into an Argument*) and the artist herself, *Il y aura...* is inspired by Eugene Ionesco's play *La Leçon*. In a Parisian apartment, a young woman arrives in an older man's home for an ambiguous ritualised lesson. She is invited to read her 'exercises' and begins to nervously recite a series of phrases describing various scenes that 'will be' in the future. As the phrases become more surreal, the professor's behaviour becomes more animated, erratic and sinister.

This work has emerged from the artist's personal experience as a bilingual Franco-British person brought up in the UK. Conflating fiction, personal experience and memory with a refusal to offer clear narrative resolutions, this film confronts intimate elements of her French heritage. Specifically, the film reflects on the artist's experience of gradually losing her mother tongue all while remaining immersed in French film, literature, television and culture.

Shot on 16mm and using handheld camera, the film has the aesthetic of a home movie, characteristic of Theobald's previous performance video recorded works. It opens in an unassumingly naturalistic style, before slowly becoming more absurd as the young woman's phrases depict an increasingly intense picture of a fractured society. At its most delirious, *Il y aura...* comments on social mores, clichés, learnt modes of behaviour and the cyclical nature of producing fiction whilst simultaneously being produced by it. The work resumes several key elements to Theobald's practice: manipulation and superimposition of images, an exploration of performance and language and use of absurdist and dead-pan humour. Here performance is used as both starting point and subject matter to examine the limits between fiction and life and the slippage between the different social roles we inhabit.

Il y aura... is written, directed and edited by the artist and is her first French language film. The film's score is written with musician Tom Hirst (American Sound/ Design a Wave).

The exhibition is curated by Anne-Sophie Dinant

Supported by  (Centre National des Arts Plastiques)

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Il y aura...

2021

16mm film transfer to digital / 18:00 min / colour / sound

A film by Alice Theobald

Starring Thibault de Montalembert and Alice Theobald

Produced by Anne-Sophie Dinant

Written by Alice Theobald

Cinematography (Super 16mm) by Ville Pippo

Sound recording by Nassim El Mounabbih

Camera assistance by Rhaissa Monteiro Pinto

Editing by Alice Theobald

Music written by Tom Hirst (American Sound) and Alice Theobald.

Songs «A Rose» and «Golden» by American Sound

Sound design and mix by 19 Sound

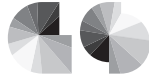
Colour grading by Black Kite Studios & Richard Fearon

Location courtesy of Nathalie Najbor

Supported by SOLARIS (Fonds DLD), South London Gallery, The Foundation Foundation, FLUXUS, Gaudel de Stampa, Elodie Latapie.

Gaudel de Stampa

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ALICE THEOBALD was born in Leicester UK in 1985. She currently lives and works in Birmingham, UK.

She works across a wide range of media including live performance, video, installation, sound, music, text and sculpture.

Her work fluctuates between script and improvisation and highlights the unstable relationship between art, communication and representation. She composes the music and soundtracks for her works. In 2013 she also co-founded the music group and artist-collective Ravioli Me Away with Sian Dorrer and Rosie Ridgway — In 2019 they created the alt-opera *The View from Behind the Futuristic Rose Trellis* which toured nationally to Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge, UK; BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead; The Box Plymouth and The Albany, Depford.

Recent solo exhibitions include *We May Believe Or We May Never Know*, The White House, CREATE, Dagenham, 2018; *Weddings And Babies*, Pilar Corrias, 2017; *The Next Step*, Two Queens, Leicester, 2016 ; *It's Not Who You Are, it's How You Are*, collaboration with Atomik Architecture, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, 2015.

Performance presentations include *Ballad of Simple Women*, Abu Dhabi Art Fair, AE ; *What Not To Wear Our My Soul*, Art Night, Walthamstow, 2019; *You've got my back and I'm on your side*, FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims, FR 2017 and Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea, 2016; *I've said yes now that's it*, Chisenhale Gallery (Interim), London, UK, 2014 ; *AFTER/HOURS/DROP/BOX*, Spike Island, Bristol, UK, 2014.

ANNE-SOPHIE DINANT A is an independent curator based in France.

She was Curator at Large at CAPC (musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux) from 2014 to 2018 where she curated *L'Ecran*, a series of exhibitions of film and video. Other recent exhibitions and film programmes she organised include *Clément Cogitore*, Base sous-marine, Bordeaux; *For as Long as You Like*, Gaudel de Stampa, Paris ; *Reflections without Sun*, M-Museum, Louvain; *Acting for the Camera. Acting with the Camera*, Arnolfini, Bristol.

Anne-Sophie was previously associate curator at the South London Gallery (2012-2017) where she curated and co-curated exhibitions by Manon de Boer, Charles Atlas and Mika Tajima and screenings and performances by artists such as Eleanor Antin, Gisèle Vienne, Claire Fontaine, Babette Mangolte and Jessica Warboys. She has also organised film and video screenings at Tate Modern, The British Film Institute (BFI) and the ICA, London.

She has written for artist books and for art magazines such as Artpress and Mousse.