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**KERNING**  
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**A solo Exhibition by Niels TRANNOIS  
at Windhager von KÄNEL Zurich  
08-06-2023 until 23-07-2023**

notes on kerning

In typography, kerning is the manual adjustment of space between two letters. The title of the exhibition evokes this invisible gap that allows us to grasp words, but also the unfathomable value of intuitive work leading to balance.  
Break

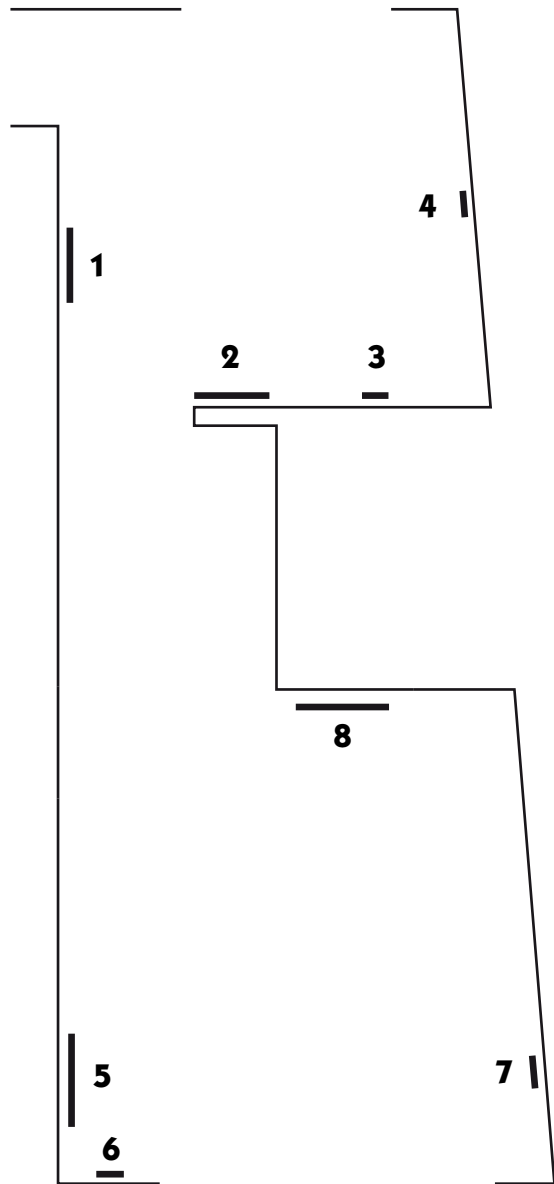
According to the hellenistic philologist Barbara Cassin, the untranslatable is not that which cannot be translated, but that which cannot cease to be translated. The idea of translation here offers no finiteness, no stopping point upon which a door leads from one language to another, but a meaning that cannot be fixed, a balance that always remains to be adjusted.  
Break

The fragility of the balance is one of the key elements in the exhibition, and the paintings act like a living organism that symbiotically corrupts the support they overrun and re-establishes the balance which was not previously visible. As a result, "their" kerning can be read in full as well as in hollowness, like the painted envelopes whose inaccessible contents evoke the kerning between two persons. the silent circulation of a virus.  
Break

"The sky is thin as paper here" William S. Burroughs describes this scene in which cowboys in the desert fire their guns into the air, piercing the night sky with the holes that make up the stars. The veil of the night is torn away, revealing them to be unconscious actors caught up in a film set, tipping their reality on its head. The exhibition is also about this shift.  
Break

Thin as a sheet of paper, porcelain works are vulnerable, yet they are using one of the oldest technologies available on earth. This paradox echoes the vulnerability of memory and the language used to transmit it, of the required effort (spacing) one needs to formalise what comes from the field of thought, of the intangible. Taking care while the work is build and in its transmission is an imponderable part of its reality. Weaving an upside-down universe in which the fragility of representation and its support becomes a strength, facing the complexity of the world .  
Break

A silent revolution, here the notion of resistance through fragility, informality and the symbolism of narrative sequences, sometimes cryptic, makes up the node of the work, what escapes and yet is there, can sometimes be delivered in an obscene way. With the return of ideology (in politics or contemporary beliefs), the work is built on dramaturgies transmitted by the vector of symbolism, which is more open to interpretation and therefore more inclusive. Dramaturgy is the coexistence of contradictions that allows us to (again) live with the complexity of the world.  
Break



- 1** «Le blizzard, incident du chien pendant la nuit»  
 print on fabric, porcelain paper, oil, mdf, plexiglas  
 90x70x10cm  
 2022
- 2** «Oeil distrait, écoute flottante 5»  
 laser engraved plexiglas, oiled xerox print, transparent  
 paper, sticker, feathers  
 2023
- 3** «Carrer Major»  
 Oil on laser engraved porcelain paper  
 36,5x25,5cm  
 2022
- 4** «Il y a eu une noria toute la nuit»  
 Oil on engraved porcelain paper  
 36,5x25,5cm  
 2022
- 5** «The Sky is Thin as Paper here»  
 oil on canvas, print on fabric, mdf, plexiglas, DMT  
 121x87x10cm  
 2022
- 6** «Memory erasure »  
 Oil on laser engraved porcelain paper  
 36,5x25,5cm  
 2022
- 7** «Pride and Oblivion»  
 Oil on laser engraved porcelain paper mounted on plexiglas  
 44x31,5x4cm  
 2022
- 8** «Boulevard où il pleut des baies rouges»  
 Varnished C-print on paper, oil on paper, canvas, MDF, plexigals  
 121x87x10cm  
 2006-2022

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**Niels Trannois, Biography**  
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Niels TRANNOIS (born 1976 in France) is a Lausanne/Marseille based artist working in the extended field of painting. His work can be understood as fragments of the fictional scenario of what could happen if reality were to absent itself, the submerged side of a world in abeyance overrun by both figurative and symbolist resurgences. His artistic practice aims to suspend through a materiality of the sensible an irresolute opposition between language and sensation, narration and abstraction, intuitions and representation, between that which signifies and that which, always, flees.

Niels TRANNOIS studied Fine Arts at the Villa Arson (Nice, France). His work has been shown at Villa du Parc (Annemasse, FR) where, together with Jessy Razafimandimby, they started their collaboration under the name of Quintana E. Amongst other venues, he has been showing at The Grotto - Quadrado Azul Gallery (Lisbon ), CACY (Yverdon), Kunsthalle Basel, Centre d'Art Contemporain (Geneva), Supportico Lopez (Berlin). His work is currently on view at the Swiss Arts Awards 2023