

CANDICE LIN

A HARD WHITE BODY

From September 6 to December 23, 2017
at Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research, Paris

Opening on Tuesday, September 5

From 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. (press), from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (general public)

Curated by Lotte Arndt and Lucas Morin



Candice Lin, *Sock (mockup for A Hard White Body)*, 2017. Courtesy the artist.

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Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is happy to announce Candice Lin's first solo exhibition in France.

A Hard White Body infests Bétonsalon's space with a proliferating, living, liquid and smelly installation that consists of a fragile entropic bedroom made of unfired moist porcelain. The exhibition considers the displacement of bodies—human and non—through examining the histories of porcelain, plants, and people. It connects the trajectories of the African-American author James Baldwin during his 1950s time in Paris, and that of the French botanist Jeanne Baret, the first woman to circumnavigate the globe in Bougainville's 1766-1769 expedition.

The exhibition questions the fixity of identity and examines the porosity of intersections between race, gender, class and sexuality, thinking about how this permeability serves as modes of survival, access, secrecy or shaming. Lin stages contamination processes between organic and inorganic materials and creates untenable sculptures and situations that demand constant caretaking. She works with porcelain, a material loaded with histories of exoticism, global trade, scientific study, the birth of virology, and racialized language around its purity, whiteness, and imperviousness to staining. Drawing on affect and desire, with sensitivity towards the attractiveness and repulsion of certain smells and textures, Candice Lin works on destabilizing established hierarchies of bodies, matter, and meaning.

A Hard White Body is produced in collaboration with Portikus, Frankfurt/Main.

Candice Lin's exhibition is completed by a series of public programs designed by Lotte Arndt in collaboration with Temporary Gallery, Cologne. They are sponsored by Perspektive - Fund for Contemporary Art and Architecture, a program initiated by the Bureau for Visual Arts of the Institut français Germany.

The exhibition and its public programs are taking place in the context of the 30th anniversary of the death of James Baldwin (1924-1987).

About Candice Lin

Candice Lin received her MFA in New Genres at the San Francisco Art Institute and her double BA in Visual Arts and Art Semiotics at Brown University. Her work engages notions of gender, race and sexuality, drawing from scientific theories, anthropology and queer theory. Lin's work has been recently exhibited at Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, LAXART, Kadist Art Foundation in Paris, the Delfina Foundation in London, and Akuna Zentroa/Alhondiga Bilbao, Spain with recent solo exhibitions at Gasworks (London) and Commonwealth and Council (Los Angeles). She is represented by Ghebaly Gallery in Los Angeles and Quadrado Azul in Porto. She lives and works in Los Angeles.



Candice Lin, *Sheets as flesh (mockup for A Hard White Body)*, 2017. Courtesy the artist.



Candice Lin, *System for a Stain*, 2016. Wood, glass jars, cochineal, poppy seeds, metal castings, water, tea, sugar, copper still, hot plate, ceramic vessels, mortar and pestle, Thames mud, jar, microbial mud battery, vinyl floor. Variable dimensions. Courtesy: Gasworks.

BÉTONSALON - CENTER FOR ART AND RESEARCH & VILLA VASSILIEFF

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research offers a space of collective reflection that combines both artistic and academic practices, and questions the production and dissemination of knowledge. We develop our activities in a process-based, collaborative, and discursive manner, following different time spans, in cooperation with various local, national, and international organizations. Exhibitions are enriched by different associated events (workshops, conferences, performances, round table discussions...). We organize seminars and workshops in collaboration with faculty members from the Paris Diderot University. We lead off-site research projects in partnership with other institutions, and offer residency programs for researchers, artists, and curators.

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is a non-profit organization established in Paris in 2003. Since 2007, Bétonsalon has been located on the campus of the Paris Diderot University. In 2016, we launched the Académie Vivante (Living Academy) program, an experimental research laboratory within the Epigenetics and Cell Fate unit (CNRS / Université Paris Diderot) that invites artists in residency. This same year, we launched Villa Vassillieff, our second site of activities, in the former studio of artist Marie Vassillieff, located in the heart of the Montparnasse neighborhood. Until 2013, this location was the Museum of Montparnasse. Villa Vassillieff is a cultural establishment of the City of Paris.

Villa Vassillieff intends to reconnect with the history of its location by inviting artists and researchers to take a contemporary look at the heritage of Montparnasse. Our exhibitions and public programs focus on exploring lesser-known resources and aim at re-writing and diversifying historical art



narratives. Among many grant and residency opportunities, we joined forces with our leading sponsor Pernod Ricard to create the Pernod Ricard Fellowship, a residency program inviting four international artists, curators, or researchers every year in the Villa's studio. We collaborate closely with museums and curators to design tailor-made research projects and bring innovative perspectives, as illustrated by the ongoing Marc Vaux program jointly led by Villa Vassillieff and Centre Pompidou's Kandinsky Library.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The public programs of the exhibition *A Hard White Body* were designed by Lotte Arndt in collaboration with Temporary Gallery, Cologne. They are part of a series of events entitled *Disturbing Objects, Disquiet Objects. Going Beyond Classificatory Certainties* taking place over both locations between September and December 2017.

At Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research, Paris

Saturday, September 9, 2 p.m. - Precarious Homes
with Jamika Ajalon, Candice Lin, Aykan Safoğlu, screening of *Off-White Tulips* (2013) by Aykan Safoğlu

Saturday, October 21, 3 p.m. - Bathing in Dangerous Liquids
with Élisabeth Lebovici and Petra Van Brabandt, screening of *Maldito sea tu nombre libertad* (1994) by Vladimir Ceballos

Saturday, December 2, 2 p.m. - Stowaways/Blinde Passagiere/Passagers clandestins
with Teresa Castro

At Temporary Gallery, Cologne

Friday, October 13, 7 p.m. - Matter in Process: Erasures and Resurgences

Friday, November 3, 7 p.m. - Grenzgängerinnen. Über Wucherungen und Sammlungen in Aufruhr

Disturbing Objects, Disquiet Objects. Going Beyond Classificatory Certainties is sponsored by Perspektive - Fund for Contemporary Art and Architecture, a program initiated by the Bureau for Visual Arts of the Institut français Germany.

ACADÉMIE VIVANTE

The Académie vivante (Living Academy) program is an experimental research laboratory established in 2016 within the Epigenetics and Cell Fate unit (CNRS / Paris-Diderot University), in collaboration with Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research.

Every semester, the Académie vivante (Living Academy) invites international artists to work in the laboratory on a specific research topic. Artists gain privileged access to lab resources and lead an experimental program designed for researchers, students, and the general public. They also contribute to ongoing exhibitions at Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research and take part in the art center's public programs.

For the fourth Académie vivante, Julie Ramage (Professor of Literature at the Paris-Diderot University) will be invited to collaborate with the participating artists. Artist Laura Huertas Millán will direct the research and creation program, while artist Ali Cherri will design and lead a week-long intensive workshop. Lotte Arndt, co-curator of the exhibition *A Hard White Body*, will design a series of seminars in collaboration with Temporary Gallery, Cologne.

ABOUT LOTTE ARNDT

Lotte Arndt teaches at the art school l'École d'art et design de Valence since 2014. In 2013, she finished her PhD dealing with Paris based cultural magazines referring to Africa (Paris, Berlin), and worked as researcher in residency at the art school l'École supérieure d'art de Clermont Métropole. In 2016, she was a Goethe Fellow at Villa Vassiliev, was a guest theorist at ESADTPM Toulon, and was the guest editor of the online journal Qalqalah (2017). She coordinated the artistic research project «Karawane» that accompanied the making of the Belgian pavilion of Vincent Meessen and Katerina Gregos at the Venice Biennale 2015. Lotte is part of the artists and researcher group Ruser l'image; publishes regularly on topics regarding the postcolonial present and artistic strategies in pursuit of subverting Eurocentric institutions and narratives. Recent publications include *Crawling Doubles. Colonial Collecting and Affect* (with Mathieu K. Abonnenc and Catalina Lozano), Paris, B42, 2016; *Hunting & Collecting. Sammy Baloji*, (with Asger Taiaksev), Brussels, Paris, MuZEE and *Imane Farès*, 2016 and *Les revues font la culture ! Négociations postcoloniales dans les périodiques parisiens relatifs à l'Afrique* (2047-2012), WVT, 2016.

PARTNERS

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is supported by the City of Paris, the Paris Diderot University – Paris 7, the Île-de-France Regional Board of Cultural Affairs – Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Île-de-France Region and Leroy Merlin – Quai d'Ivry.

The Académie vivante is supported by the Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso.

Bétonsalon – Center for Art and Research is a member of Tram, réseau art contemporain Paris / Île-de-France and of d.c.a / association française de développement des centres d'art.

Villa Vassiliev receives support from public and private partners first and foremost from the City of Paris, the Île-de-France Region and Pernod Ricard, its lead sponsor. Villa Vassiliev also develops partnerships with the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques, the Société des Auteurs dans les Arts Graphiques et Plastiques, the Collège d'études mondiales of the Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme, and the Goethe Institut.



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