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GUILLAUME LEBLON: AMERICA

Opening: Wednesday, 15 May, 19:00 to 21:30 h.

Exhibition dates: 16.05 > 29.06.2019. Tuesday to Friday, 11:00 to 19:00 h. Saturday 11:00 to 15:00 h.

The French artist Guillaume Leblon creates site-specific installations, sculptures, videos or works on paper which transform our perception of the space and its function. Through a sort of staged presentation of his work, he charges his objects with metaphorical meanings, introducing a certain uneasiness that affects and stimulates our perception. With a nuanced and intuitive vocabulary, his work explores the physical potentialities of forms and materials.

Leblon's fifth exhibition at ProjecteSD is called *America*. The title comes from the celebrated work by Allen Ginsberg, a poem written in 1956 and one significant literary statement of political unrest in the post-World War II United States. Leblon has been living in New York since 2015, so it is not by coincidence that his experience there has influenced the choice of this title.

Leblon's *America* consists of an installation of new sculptures and works on paper. A landscape is subtly depicted in the gallery space through an ensemble of six sculptural objects that have been crafted after real found broken umbrellas abandoned in the city streets in the aftermath of a storm. The installation delineates a kind of staged arrangement of everyday objects that certainly triggers a sense of desolation, abandonment. A colorful fictional cityscape of twisted objects, a suspended picture of a fragment of today's life?

For Guillaume Leblon art is neither a representation of the world nor of one's knowledge, but rather an extension of the real in all its possibilities. As Luca Cerizza puts it, *Leblon's work does not come across as direct images, like head-on visions. Rather, it is a subtle interplay of hidden and revealed things (...)*¹. Much is intentionally hidden in *America*. We walk around the unsettling display of lost disrupted umbrellas and we cannot help being intrigued by a possible preceding story, a certain unresolvable narrative woven together with a strong feeling of incompleteness. Behind this harsh constellation of objects laying on the ground, there is, certainly, an image of a casualty, a sense of loss. Therefore, the connection with Ginsberg's poem is not so fortuitous and it does not limit to the title. Leblon's *America* is not an explicit political statement, but a metaphor of our times, in a moment where society, like in Ginsberg's years, seems to be agitated, lost or confused. A wailing cry expressed through the traces left behind on a stormy day.

¹ In "Tactiques tactiles", text by Luca Cerizza, *Guillaume Leblon*, catalogue, published by École nationale des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, 2003

Guillaume Leblon (Lille, 1971) studied at the National Art School in Lyon and was a resident artist at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam (2000) and the ISCP in New York (2008). He was nominated for the Prix Marcel Duchamp in 2011.

His works have been exhibited in international solo- and group exhibitions, for example at Front International Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art, Cleveland; S.M.A.K. Ghent; Mass Moca, North Adams; MUCEM, Marseille; DuSable Museum, Chicago; in Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver; Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, Brussels; Pinault Collection / Punta della Dogana, Venice; IAC Villeurbanne, Villeurbanne; Musée national d'art moderne Centre Pompidou, Paris; Lyon Biennale, Lyon; Secession, Vienna; Culturgest, Porto; Fondation d'Entreprise Ricard, Paris and many more.

His works are part of private and museum collections, like the ones of S.M.A.K, Pinault Collection; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Musée de Rochechouart, Rochechouart; IAC Villaurbanne; Frac Bretagne; Les Abattoirs; Centro Galego de Arte Contemporáneo, Kadist Foundation and EVN Collection; Guillaume Leblon lives and works in New York.

For additional documentation, artist's full CV and/or images, please contact: Silvia Dauder, sd@projectesd.com; Anna Ebner, ae@projectesd.com

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