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Tuesday > Saturday – 12:00 > 6:00 pm

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Press Release

« VOODOO », Stephan Goldrajch

Exhibition from 12 January until 24 February 2018

Opening Thursday 11 January, 6-9pm

Stephan Goldrajch and his textile world

Stephan Goldrajch is a contemporary artist. Very quickly and long before it became fashionable, Stephan chose to communicate via “textile performances” in which social interactions are essential. Stephan’s masks and crochet work, which he creates and uses in his performances, have travelled the world. Stephan launched the concept of Broderies participatives (Participatory Embroideries) in public spaces, with local inhabitants, walkers-by, refugees and even a local priest. The stitches are easy, embroiders just follow the lines of a drawing with red wool. People of different social and cultural backgrounds connect and experience a timeless moment where words follow the rhythm of the needle, are shared like a whisper, a confidence and a laugh.

Supported by the Wiels art centre (Brussels), Stephan created the Légende du Canal (The Canal Legend) over a period of several months. With inhabitants of both sides of the canal crossing Brussels he created a legend. It resulted in a giant exhibition of one hundred flags illustrating the legend, displayed on buildings of both sides of the canal: the trendy Dansaert neighbourhood and the popular area of Molenbeek-Saint-Jean. Stephan’s aim was to create a bridge over the canal bringing the two communities together.

Over a period of three years Stephan accompanied the team of the Jewish museum of Belgium while it underwent huge transformations. While the museum became more and more empty, Stephan proposed to use its empty walls as a background to a contemporary version of scenes of annihilation or destruction in the Torah and the Old Testament. This series representing Adam and Eve, Noah, Babel, Sodom and Gomorrah, Samson and Delilah, Elijah and Elisha and David and Goliath will be presented at the Jewish Museum of Belgium from May to September 2018.

Recently, in Namur, Stephan initiated another participative project: La légende de L’éléphant de Bomel (The legend of the Bomel Elephant). Its title is inspired by the Abattoirs of Bomel, the previous slaughterhouse, which now houses the cultural centre.

Here again, the objective is to create links and relationships with the population and local social relays and actors through a series of performances captured by video, photographs, paintings and drawings. The legend of the Bomel elephant will be displayed at the African Museum of Namur from July to December 2018.

Stephan’s curriculum is dense. Besides his work as a contemporary artist and teacher, he also has a pedagogic activity at Out of the Box, a experimental method in Brussels to reconnect young people with society or school. Like the Situationists Stephan guides the young people into urban adventures, which confront them with a new reality and a different way to look at things.

The Voodoo series proposes a series of masks and creatures that, with a touch of humour, seem to be part of a world filled with dreams and magic rituals.

Stephan Goldrajch has worked with or exhibited at: Wiels Contemporary Art Centre in Brussels, Invisible Dog in New York, the Arts Museum in Haifa, Saint-Herblain Arts Centre in France, Ixelles Museum, Tanzmesse in Düsseldorf, Contemporary Arts Centre L’iselp in Brussels, Halles Saint Géry in Brussels, Baronian-Francey Art gallery, Dollinger and Hezi Cohen, as well as David Castillo, respectively in Brussels, Tel Aviv and Miami.