



presse@mudam.lu  
www.mudam.lu

Tel + 352 45 37 85 1  
Fax + 352 45 37 85 400

3, Park Dräi Eechelen  
L-1499 Luxembourg

**Mudam Luxembourg**  
Musée d'Art Moderne  
Grand-Duc Jean

# PRESS KIT

PREMIER ÉTAGE - SECOND DEGRÉ  
COLLECTION MUDAM  
17/11/2010 - 10/04/2011

## PREMIER ÉTAGE - SECOND DEGRÉ

### COLLECTION MUDAM

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From 17 November 2010 to 10 April 2011 Mudam Luxembourg is presenting the exhibition *Premier étage - Second degré* in the first floor of the museum, which is devoted to the thematic presentation of the collection. This exhibition offers an introduction, without preconceptions, to artworks in which subversion and poetry, humour and criticism are mixed together and collide.

Since the end of the last century, subversion, appropriation and recuperation are all practices that numerous contemporary artists have indulged in with undisguised pleasure. First in line is Duchamp, an inveterate chess player who, with a magisterial stroke, forced a stalemate in art in 1917 by exhibiting a urinal signed R. Mutt. Above all, the Dada movement, (a name chosen at random from a dictionary) founded in 1916, invented a playful, anti-establishment artform in response to the rational madness of a society profoundly effected by a murderous world conflict. Whether they seek to critique our habits and certainties or are merely interested in the poetry of daily life, these artists (who are often endowed with a biting humour) share a taste for play and do not hesitate to demolish the codes of art and society.

**General Idea** was an artists' collective in the 1980s that was emblematic of the art of subversion, mocking the shortcomings of a materialistic society by turning its own imagery against it, by way of corporate, publicity and press visuals. The *Pasta Paintings* are eloquent in this way as everybody can immediately recognize the Visa and Mastercard logos rendered in pasta.

The appropriation of media techniques and practices in order to highlight their vacuousness is also characteristic of **Claude Closky's** art. *Guili-guili* lays out to infinity a series of drawings made up of pages taken from magazines, the original meaning of which is undermined by the artist. A comic effect arising from inoffensive balloons containing onomatopoeia and interjections is difficult to resist: "Argh", "Tagada" and "Caramba" sanctimoniously exclaim the protagonists of this world of glossy images.

Some artists display a deliberately provocative or punk attitude, including **Albert Oehlen** with the Spanish title of his painting *Bobo Alegre* conjuring up the figure of the "Happy Imbecile", **John Giorno** whose invectives are brazenly presented on coloured backgrounds, and **Christoph Büchel** who invited a quartet of charming eighty-year-olds to sing "God Save the Queen" by the Sex Pistols. *No Future*. Yes, but which one?

Other more zany ones don't hesitate to put themselves in somewhat ridiculous situations such as **Heimo Zobernig** in his video *N°24* where he faces (in a combat with heroic undertones) assaults from the colours red, green and blue which try to make him literally disappear. It is the artist fighting against abstract art in a way... The poetry of the absurd also permeates the "pata-physical" films by **João Maria Gusmão** and **Pedro Paiva** in which the laws of physics seem to be abolished and the supernatural comes surreptitiously to the fore.

Another, more prosaic, sort of game using appropriated objects and pre-existing forms is deployed in the work of artists such as **Tony Cragg** and **Jürgen Drescher**. One "paints" with the help of found materials while the other rips out his kitchen floor and mounts it as a painting-sculpture. Moreover, subversion seems to intrude in all fields of creative activity: the designer **Sam Baron** takes up the production of traditional Portuguese earthenware and reinterprets vernacular forms while stylist **Martin Margiela** invents objects with multiple functions.

## PREMIER ÉTAGE - SECOND DEGRÉ COLLECTION MUDAM

**Exhibition from 17 November 2010 to 10 April 2011**

**Artists** Sylvie Auvray, Sam Baron, Beaurin Domercq, Walter Van Beirendonck, Christoph Büchel, Libia Castro & Ólafur Ólafsson, Jacques Charlier, Claude Closky, Tony Cragg, Jürgen Drescher, General Idea, Jochen Gerner, John Giorno, Jack Goldstein, João Maria Gusmão & Pedro Paiva, Simon Jacquard, Terence Koh, Les ready-made appartiennent à tout le monde®, Edward Lipski, Martin Margiela, Mathieu Mercier, Albert Oehlen, Martin Parr, Grayson Perry, Joe Scanlan, Judi Werthein & Leandro Erlich, Franz West, Heimo Zobernig...

**Curators** Marie-Noëlle Farcy, Clément Minighetti

### ADDRESS AND INFORMATION

Mudam Luxembourg  
Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean  
3, Park Dräi Eechelen, L-1499 Luxembourg  
t. +352 45 37 85 1, [info@mudam.lu](mailto:info@mudam.lu), [www.mudam.lu](http://www.mudam.lu)

### OPENING HOURS

Wednesday-Friday: 11am-8pm.  
Saturday-Monday: 11am-6pm.  
Tuesday closed.

### ENTRANCE FEE

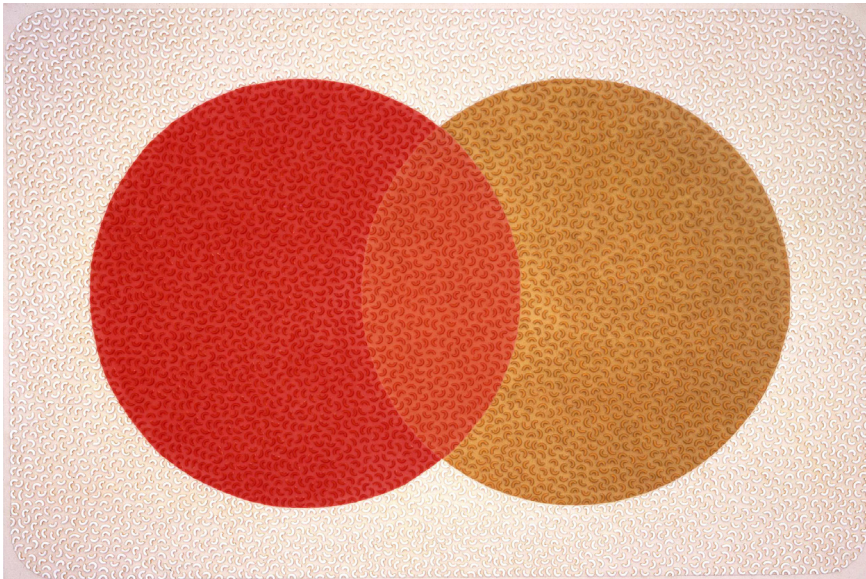
Full price: 5€.  
Reduced: 3€.  
<18 years, Wednesday 6pm-8pm: free.

### PRESS CONTACT

Valerio D'Alimonte, [v.dalimonte@mudam.lu](mailto:v.dalimonte@mudam.lu), t. +352 45 37 85 633

### Mudam thanks

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**General Idea**

*Pasta Paintings*, 1986-1987  
Acrylic and pastas on canvas  
Sans Titre (Mastercard), 101,6 x 152,4 cm  
Collection Mudam Luxembourg  
© Photo: Galerie Frédéric Giroux



**Christoph Büchel**

*No Future*, 2008  
DVD, colour, sound  
4 min 54 sec (loop)  
Collection Mudam Luxembourg  
© Photo: Hauser & Wirth Zürich London





**Heimo Zobernig**  
*N° 24, 2007*  
Video projection  
14 min 22 sec  
Collection Mudam Luxembourg  
© Photo: Courtesy Galerie Micheline Szwajcer



**Judi Wertheim & Leandro Erlich**  
*Turismo, 2000-2001*  
Marisbel, her horse and her spouse  
Portfolio, 12 C-print colour  
Collection Mudam Luxembourg  
© Photo: Judy Wertheim & Leandro Erlich