

**“My Paris”
Collection
Antoine de Galbert**

01.10.2011 to 08.01.2012

**Press conference:
Wednesday, 28 September 2011, 11 a.m.**

me Collectors Room Berlin
Olbricht Foundation
Auguststraße 68, 10117 Berlin
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 12 p.m.-6 p.m.



Nicolas Milhé: *Untitled*, 2009
Stuffed hyena, gold © Stéphane Béllanger

From 1 October 2011 to 8 January 2012, the Antoine de Galbert collection will go on show at me Collectors Room Berlin, when we hand the stage over to the Parisian collector as he offers us his view of the contemporary French art scene in the exhibition **My Paris**.

Antoine de Galbert has been collecting art since 1987, deliberately bucking prevailing trends and defying the mainstream. Folk art, 'art brut' and religious objects also make rich additions to his collection of contemporary works. From the more than 2000 objects he has assembled over the last 25 years, the art lover has selected several dozen key works for the Berlin exhibition **My Paris** that sum up his impression of the French art scene of the last decade or so.

As the title suggests, the exhibition is a thoroughly subjective compilation of French art from the present day. Antoine de Galbert loves the unconventional, likes to approach things tangentially, without bowing to constraints of genre and the accepted canon of artists deemed *en vogue*. The works presented in the show reflect the freedom he enjoys of not having to collect strategically or solely with an eye to the market.

The works here have an immediate impact and combine an expressive pictorial quality with visual energy. In the works on show, themes such as corporeality, language and power are sometimes lyrically alluded to, at other times depicted with surprising force. Some of the artists probe questions of social relevance today, but in a way that is ironic or subversive.

Political themes and controversial issues are illustrated, but without lecturing the viewer. In the exhibition catalogue, de Galbert describes the artworks in his collection as 'très in-

carné': vivid, material, incarnate. The scenes depicted here are nearly iconic in their effect; they linger in the viewer's mind long after being seen.

Although they reflect de Galbert's personal preference, the works on show, from over 40 artists—in the form of installation, sculpture, drawing, collage, photograph, video and painting—amount to a comprehensive cross-section of French art today. While several of the artists are already recognized on the international stage, others will be new faces for a Berlin public. The collector will personally lead visitors through the exhibition, via a video guide.

The artists featured are:

Gilles Barbier, Julien Berthier, Olivier Blanckart, Pierre-Yves Bohm, Céleste Boursier-Mougenot, Mircea Cantor, Claire Fontaine, Nicolas Darrot, John Davies, Luc Delahaye, Philippe Dereux, Damien Deroubaix, Ernest T, Richard Fauguet, Didier Faustino, Valérie Favre, Dominique Figarella, Elika Hedayat, Chris Hipkiss, Jean-Charles Hue, Jackie Kayser, Bertrand Lavier, Natacha Lesueur, Enrique Marty, Théo Mercier, Nicolas Milhé, François Morellet, Mathieu Pernot, Chantal Petit, Eric Pougeau, François Ribes, Elsa Sahal, Thibault Scemama de Gialluly, Stéphane Thidet, Philippe Thomassin, Barthélémy Toguogbo, Ida Tursic & Wilfried Mille, and Henri Ughetto.

Paris / Berlin: exchange of the collections

Parallel to the exhibition of contemporary works, folk art and religious artefacts from the Antoine de Galbert collection will also go on show in Berlin, forming a dialogue with objects in the Olbricht Collection's own 'cabinet of marvels', the Wunderkammer. As collectors, Antoine de Galbert and Thomas Olbricht share an interest in the themes of impermanence and sexuality.

Concurrent to the **My Paris** exhibition in Berlin, a part of the Olbricht Collection will go on show from 22 October 2011 in *la maison rouge* in Paris, in an exhibition entitled 'Mémoires du futur'. *La maison rouge* was set up by de Galbert in 2004 on the Bassin de l'Arsenal in the twelfth arrondissement in a former secluded factory building. It hosts between three and six temporary exhibitions each year, as well as numerous other events relating to contemporary art.

Programme of events

Kicking off the series, a talk will be held on the first day of the exhibition, Saturday 1 October, at 5 p.m., featuring Antoine de Galbert himself, in conjunction with KUNST magazine. As ever, there will also be a range of artist talks, readings, tours and a children's programme on offer at me Collectors Room.

A catalogue is due for release to accompany the show, richly illustrated with colour plates and with texts from German and French art historians.

With generous support from the Institut français. **INSTITUT FRANÇAIS**

In conjunction with la maison rouge. **m**

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