

# ANN VERONICA JANSSENS

16 May - 22 June 2013

For her first solo exhibition at galerie kamel mennour, the Belgian artist Ann Veronica Janssens punctuates the space with works that play with the mobile states of matter, varied nuances of colours and the intensity of light.

A long metal I-beam has been placed on the concrete floor of the gallery, of which it appears to form a part. Its mass anchors it securely to the floor, but its upper surface shines with an oily brightness. Metal is by its nature chthonian, but here it gives back something of the sky it reflects, because the artist has made the light jump out by polishing the metal. Responding to the density of the beam is the transparency of two volumes of glass, also placed on the ground. Coloured throughout, these parallelepipeds were created in the Czech Republic. They capture a light that gives the impression of radiating out from within the works. Close by, a cubic glass aquarium plays similarly with the light, but also with the space around it. Like a black hole, it swallows everything, only to give it all back in a diffracted, quasi-cubist and kaleidoscopic way. It is filled with liquid, on the surface of which an intense monochrome tonality gives the impression of a phantom image. These games of reflections are like thresholds where images dissolve.

Finally, the last work is the continuation of a series begun in 1997 with the white fog at the M HKA in Antwerp, a fog which became coloured in 2000 in Tours, and likewise the following year at the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin with the installation *Blue, Red and Yellow*. Here, with the walls painted in hot colours, the natural light and artificial fog induce the troubling experience of evolving in a paradoxical space, at once dense and light, enclosed and infinite. There is also a bewitching sensation of heaviness, and the impression of being immersed in colour, of a journey into an intangible abstraction.

Born in Folkestone (UK) in 1956, Ann Veronica lives and works in Brussels (BE). Her work has been shown in numerous solo exhibitions: "Serendipity", WIELS - Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels (BE), "Are you experienced?", Espai d'art contemporani de Castelló (ES), Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Kunstverein München (GE), Musée d'Orsay, Paris (FR), CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco (USA), Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (UK), Kunsthalle Bern (CH) and Mac Marseille (FR)...

Since 1985, she has also participated in major group exhibitions, including at: Centre Pompidou in Paris, MoCA - Museum of Contemporary Art of Los Angeles (USA), Power Plant - Contemporary Art Gallery (Canada), Generall Foundation (AT), Chisenhale Gallery, Hayward Gallery (UK), Witte de With, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Kroller-Müller Museum (NL), Kunstverein (GE), and taken part in various international biennales: the Biennale of Sydney (AUS), as well as those of Istanbul (TR), São Paulo (BR) and Seoul (KR). Alongside Michel François, she represented Belgium at the 1999 Venice Biennale (IT).

Ann Veronica Janssens collaborates regularly with choreographers (Pierre Droulers and Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker).

In 2009, with Nathalie Ergino, she initiated the 'Laboratoire espace cerveau' at the IAC in Villeurbanne (FR).

Her work is currently on show at the Grand Palais in the exhibition « Dynamo, Un siècle de lumière et de mouvement dans l'art, 1913 - 2013 ». Ann Veronica Janssens is the author of a commissioned work for the chapelle Saint-Vincent of Grignan, inauguration on May 25th.

**Ann Veronica Janssens' exhibition** is on show at galerie kamel mennour from Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 7pm.

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