

Exhibition information

VISIONS OF VOID

Florian and Michael Quistrebort

Sat 7 February — Sun 22 March 2015

DCA
Dundee Contemporary Arts

152 Nethergate
Dundee DD1 4DY
01382 909900
Scottish Charity No. SCO26631

Open daily 11:00-18:00
Open late Thursday 20:00
Admission free
www.dca.org.uk

INTRODUCTION

For the first new exhibition of 2015, we are proud to present hypnotic abstract videos and paintings by the collaborative French brothers Michael (born 1976) and Florian (born 1982) Quistrebert. Based in Paris and Amsterdam, the artists were recently nominated for the prestigious Marcel Duchamp Prize and have been increasingly recognised for their intense and immersive works. *Visions of Void*, their largest exhibition in the UK to date is kindly supported by the Institut français d'Écosse in Edinburgh where a small complementary selection of video works is also being presented.

Genesis Breyer P-Orridge summarises their practice in his *Shadows and Mirrors* essay: "The Quistrebert Brothers offer a covert portal into alternate viabilities of pattern, primary shape and intersection." Recent exhibitions include: the *Prix Marcel Duchamp 2014* at FIAC, The Grand Palais, Paris; Leto Gallery, Warsaw; Galerie Crèvecoeur, Paris; Galerie Juliette Jongma, Amsterdam; and the Kunstraum, London. Florian and Michael graduated from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Nantes.

Visions of Void turns the DCA gallery into an atmospheric chamber of flickering fire, shadowy space and gleaming canvases. Their works incorporate LED lights, spray-paint and even sly references to energy drinks, all combined with cultural and art-historical influences from early avant-garde cinema to 20th century painting.

DCA is an ideal environment to experience their painted and projected works. Their use of metallic surfaces and elemental motifs reverberate through the former industrial space of the building.

WORKS IN THE EXHIBITION

Stripes 2

2013

Single channel video HD

7 min / looped

Stripes 2 is an urgent pulse of hundreds of monochromatic geometric patterns coalescing together. Projected onto a large stretched canvas in a black walled room, the work faces the visitor upon entry into the exhibition.

The artists have animated and interfered with code from the video-editing suite Final Cut Pro. The transitions from one geometric pattern to the next reference Responsive Eye art from the 1960s (exemplified by artists such as Bridget Riley and Victor Vasarely) but utilise a contemporary artistic production tool to achieve it.

Overlight series

All 2015

All 140cm x 100cm

Overlight Grit 1 + 2

Modelling paste, car paint, grit, LED lights on canvas

Overlight Gold 1 + 2

Overlight Chrome 3 + 4

Overlight Gold Chrome

Modelling paste, car paint, LED lights on canvas

The *Overlight* paintings are a series of works containing small LEDs that emanate light from within the paintings. A thick layer of modelling paste is applied to the canvas, which is then covered in metallic paint. The artists describe the use of light in these works as “environmental lighting” and as “the medium that defines the object and the volumes” of the paintings.

The paintings play tricks on the eye as the lights become lost in the gleam and reflections of the textured surface and metallic paint. The artists have presented works in which the physicality of the materials and the body or “skin” of the paint is perceived through these perceptual glitches. This blurring is further heightened by the LED spotlights trained on the paintings, their bright white light creating a further shimmering layer.

The artists emphasise alchemical properties - gold or silver is transformed from liquid into material. The white *Overlight Grit* paintings contain a powder used in the production of road markings for high visibility which responds to artificial lights - glowing in the dark.

The 8th Sphere

2010

Dual channel video, wall paint

1 min 41 sec / looped

The video installation *The 8th Sphere* is a two channel projection where the same sequence is shown on adjacent walls. The artists have prepared the walls with an industrial spray gun, spraying metallic aluminium and purple paint on to the walls beyond the size of the projections. While both projections are symmetrical in the space that they occupy, they are not synchronized, creating a mirror effect that builds up through the viewer's retinal memory.

Reminiscent of geometric abstraction and early experimental cinema by artists such as Hans Richter or Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, the projected images are created from the artists' own edited film footage of shadows. The title also refers to an otherworldly realm of darkness and immateriality that occurs in occult theory.

You know that human evolution takes its course through the seven spheres of Saturn, Sun, Moon, Earth, Jupiter, Venus, Vulcan. We will conceive that besides these seven spheres there is still something else which lies outside them and yet is in some way related to the Earth. Here, then, we have a sphere, visible only to visionary-imaginative clairvoyance, which stands there as an Eighth Sphere over and above the seven which constitute the domain of the ordered and regular evolution of mankind.

Rudolf Steiner, *The Occult Movement in the 19th Century*,
Rudolf Steiner Press, 1973

Void Fires

2015

Triple channel video

30 sec / looped

Void Fires captures a graphic representation of flickering flames rendered in lurid colours derived from the marketing for energy drinks. The three translucent screens are presented in a way that encourages the visitor to actively explore the work rather than passively consume it from a single viewpoint. The primal and mystical force of fire is invoked in this work despite the artifice of the source material.

Sous-Bois Vertical

2010

Spray paint on canvas

25cm x 18cm

The exhibition closes with one of the artists' older sprayed line paintings from 2010, *Sous-Bois Vertical*. The painting is presented in the small ante-chamber of the main gallery. Reminiscent of early 20th century avant-garde painting, the hard lines and the predominance of the jet black spray paint surface is in sharp contrast with the inner light of newer works. The artists describe the painting as a "romantic vision of Futurism". The English translation of *Sous-Bois* is *Forest Floor*.

INSTITUT FRANCAIS D'ECOSSE

Amnesic cisenmA

2011

Triple monitor stacked installation

Circles / Squares / Losenges

5 min 3 sec / 4 min 8 sec / 2 min 11 sec / looped

The DCA exhibition is supported by the Institut français d'Ecosse, and a complementary selection of video works is displayed in their Edinburgh offices. The mirroring words in the title reflect the recurrence of symmetry in the artists' work and this title acknowledges a 1926 work by Marcel Duchamp.

The installation consists of a stack of three monitors, each showing looped short-form videos. With *Amnesic cisenmA*, the Quistrebets employ the formalist language of abstraction, using basic geometric shapes, such as circles, squares and rectangles and referencing canonical 20th century movements of Modernism, Responsive Eye paintings and avant-garde cinema. The geometry of the work is mirrored in the presentation on a stack of cube monitors.

The work is on display at the gallery space on the 1st floor of Institut français d'Ecosse, 13 Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7TT. Open Mon to Fri 09:30 - 18:30, Sat 09.30 - 13:00. Admission free. www.ifecosse.org.uk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the artists and to Galerie Juliette Jongma, Amsterdam and Galerie Crèvecoeur, Paris for their participation in this exhibition. With kind thanks to Vincent Guerin and Vanessa Bismuth of the Institut français d'Ecosse in Edinburgh who have supported the exhibition in Dundee and who host the work in Edinburgh.

TALKS AND EVENTS

Book your place at www.dca.org.uk, by calling **01382 909 900** or at DCA Box Office.

Artist Talk in association with DJCAD

Wed 4 February, 11:00-12:00
DCA Cinema. Free.

Florian and Michael Quistrebert discuss their practice in this lecture.

Meet the Artists

Fri 6 February, 18:30-19:00
Galleries. Free, but please book in advance.

Join the artists and Graham Domke, DCA Exhibitions Curator for a special introductory conversation and tour of the exhibition.

After-party

Fri 6 February, 21:00 to late
Redd Venue. Free.

Join us in celebrating the opening of our new exhibition with DJ sets by 'wilderness-bound beat alchemists' S. Gordon (Loops Haunt) and P. Moolah (Nilk).

(((echo)))

Thu 5 March, 19:00
Galleries. Free, drop in.

Come along and engage with this popular event designed to provoke discussions about the current exhibition through a series of presentations by local artists.

YOUNGER VISITORS AND FAMILY GROUPS

BSL Signed Gallery Tour

Wed 18 February, 11:00
Galleries. Free, drop in.

Join us for an informal BSL signed tour of the exhibition. We will take time exploring the exhibition, asking questions and sharing ideas supported by experienced sign language interpreter, Jennifer Ramsay. This is a free, drop in event.

Senior Citizen Kane Tour

Tue 24 February, 10:30-12:00
Galleries. Free, but please book in advance.

This event is especially designed for our visitors aged 60 and over. Explore the exhibition with one of our friendly Gallery Assistants, then share your thoughts and chat over a cup of tea.

Family Art Labs: space and time for the family to explore and make together

Sat 21 February & Sat 14 March,
13:00-15:00
Activity Room. Free, but please book in advance.

Suitable for all ages from 5 years and above. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Join our artists for some fun and have time to explore the Quistrebert brothers' exhibition. Talk about what you see, make creative responses and try out new techniques. Make the most of our space to create mess and experiment. Each session lasts two hours but you don't have to stay the whole time.

ARTIST'S CHOICE SCREENINGS

Art Cart

Sat 14 February & Sat 7 March,
13:00-15:00

Level 4. Free, drop in.

Fun for all ages, Art Cart offers active ways to connect with each exhibition.

For this show you can make your own geometric patterned badge, symmetrical sketch or shadow portrait.

Activity Room DIY

Open daily unless being used for a workshop. Free, drop in.

DCA Activity Room is a comfortable and imaginative space designed for younger visitors and family groups to have a go at DIY activities, browse our excellent children's art library and make connections with the exhibition. For this show there will be lots of geometry, symmetry, mirrors and shadows.

For each exhibition we ask the artist to choose films to screen in the cinema to coincide with their show. Florian and Michael Quistrebert have selected Gasper Noé's epic *Enter the Void* – the intense use of pulsing visuals and the overall palette of the hallucinatory film chimes with their work in the gallery.

Enter the Void

Tue 10 March, 20:30

Enter the Void is shot entirely from the point of view of its central character as he lives, dies, and is reborn in the neon haze of Tokyo's seedy underbelly. Separated as children, drug dealer Oscar now lives in the city with his sister Linda, a stripper. When Oscar is shot and killed in a drug deal gone wrong, his disembodied self follows Linda and his friend Alex as their lives continue without him, all portrayed in a series of dizzyingly complex, balletic camera moves.

Dir: Gasper Noé

France/Germany/Italy 2009 /

2h23m / 35mm /

English and Japanese with English subtitles / 18

NEXT EXHIBITION

Maripol, Clare Stephenson and Zoe Williams

Sat 4 April to Sun 21 June

An exhibition charting the iconic photographs, fashion and design work of Maripol from the late 1970s right up to the present. From Fiorucci to Marc Jacobs – and from Madonna to Grace Jones, via Basquiat, Warhol and Keith Haring – Maripol has exerted a huge influence on fashion, photography and art for nearly 40 years and shows no sign of slowing down. Alongside Maripol, we will show new and recent work by two artists based in Scotland – Clare Stephenson and Zoe Williams – who each produce work that is redolent of the glamour and sensuality found in Maripol's work.

JUST ASK

Our friendly Gallery Assistants are always happy to help with your questions.

Keep up to date with the very latest from DCA by visiting www.dca.org.uk, or by following us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.