

Boris Chouvellon

Turn Over

Opening : Saturday, January 9, 2016 - 12pm to 8pm

Exhibition : January 9 - February 20, 2016



Turn Over, 2016, argentic print, 30x45 cm © Boris Chouvellon

Boris Chouvellon travels in border spaces, in peripheral areas of our contemporary world. He records their condition and tries to reproduce a representation of the modern ruin to which become appended agricultural, industrial, commercial, as well as forgotten, abandoned construction areas. For his installations and sculptures, often monumental and site specific, he lifts objects, materials and shapes from the real world and transforms them into obsolete, fragile, poetic, dream-like structures.

At the heart of his first solo exhibit at Galerie Virginie Louvet, the artist sets an oversized, time-worn hamster wheel made of reinforced concrete, inside of which hang two ordinary, everyday domestic items: a child's stroller and a lawnmower, petrified under a layer of concrete.

Boris Chouvellon customarily makes up models of his monumental sculptures, generally after the creation of the full-size version. A few of those are shown here, set on low black and white marble tables, producing a striking contrast between the precious nature of the support and the poverty of the objects shown. The show also includes a new series of "adulterated" pieces and the video *Primaire, secondaire, tertiaire*.

The title, *Turn over*, refers on the one hand to the predominant theme of the exhibit: the notion of revolving motion, even though it is either frozen in the immobility of the sculptures, or derided in the video in which the artist is endlessly attempting to catch hubcaps thrown by an individual out of the frame, while standing awkwardly on a pile of tires, a reference to the myth of

Sisyphus, a symbol, according to Albert Camus, of the absurdity of existence.

And the title refers, on the other hand, to a common practice in the modern professional realm dominated by capitalism. The expression "turn over", beyond its economic implication, is also a metaphoric evocation of the vanity and frailty of human existence.

"The artist mocks the absurdities imposed by an perpetually dysfunctional system in which production rules our lives. He points out the ordinary, banal cruelty, so pervasive we no longer see it. His approach reveals an ontological anguish, a desire to resist by making up, with the strength of the builder and the nimbleness of the rambler, ruins by anticipation."

(Excerpt from the catalogue *Voyageurs, Révélation*, Emerige 2014).

Boris Chouvellon (born in 1980) graduated from the *École Supérieure de Beaux-Arts* in Marseille and the *Villa Arson* in Nice. He has participated in numerous exhibits in France and abroad. In 2011, the *Musée d'Art Contemporain* in Marseille [mac] presented his solo show *Running on Empty*, supplemented with a catalogue. In 2014 he was a finalist of the *Révélation Emerige* and, in October 2015, was chosen by *les amis de la maison rouge* to conceive an installation for the patio of the *mr* in the summer of 2016.

Maya Sachweh, curator of the exhibit Galerie

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