

STEREOPTIK

L'Exposition



STEREOPTIK, THE EXHIBITION

The installations and works presented in the STEREOPTIK exhibition give us a window into the universe of Romain Bermond and Jean-Baptiste Maillet. The exhibit is based on the performances of this duo since 2009, and invites the viewer to explore how each of these performances was created, from initial idea to final form. The raw material presented sheds light on the many research phases which lead this creative pair to their musical and graphic discoveries.

The amazement we feel when watching a STEREOPTIK show often derives from the contrast between what we see on stage and the film that results on the screen. On stage, the artists' precise, detailed gestures shape and organize seemingly rudimentary elements (paper, cardboard, pencils, charcoals, water, glass, light...), with the surprising result being a captivating, moving picture with sophisticated effects.

All of the sounds and images in STEREOPTIK shows are produced before our very eyes, but the numerous drawings, objects, puppets, devices, and mechanisms involved are the result of preliminary experiments – a necessary process for the creation of every show. The artists experiment with different combinations of materials and variations in artistic and artisanal techniques, with the aim of inventing media that will allow their tales to take shape. This practice leaves an ever-multiplying material trace, of which the final performance is but the tip of the iceberg. This exhibit will give us a glimpse into this creative world.

The material presented spans the first trials, sketches, drawings, set blueprints, all the way to the final material integrated into the performance, with ideas left behind along the way. The exhibit, which is in parts interactive, allows viewers to step into the genesis of four of the company's shows. In addition to the different steps that bring a project to completion, this exhibit reveals the sometimes surprising number and size of unfurling drawings, animation, paintings, and installations which make up the final show.

Like the backstage corridors, this exhibit space is the underbelly of a performance space, where audiences circulate and mix. This is a chance for those who do not yet know STEREOPTIK's work to discover their universe, and an unexpected second chapter for those who have seen their shows. This exhibit is site-specific, and thus changes whenever it moves, and it provides a link between art spaces of different kinds and breaks down the walls between the performing and visual arts.

▼ **Work Table**

Work table used on stage.

Left: Sand drawing/extract from the show 'Stereoptik'.

Centre: Bobbin for panoramic background.

Right: Projection of an extract from the show 'The Oversized Costumes'.

Wood / Steel



▼ **Aquarium**

Interactive extract from the show 'Stereoptik'.

Four buttons for activating four fans, each of which blows from a different direction over the surface of the water, causing a walnut-shell sailboat to move about on it. A slow, poetic video game.

Water / walnut / plastic / ink on paper



▼ **Panoramic backdrop. ‘The Oversized Costumes’**

Original, 60-meter-long backdrop, used in the show ‘The Oversized Costumes’, which tells the story of a lightening strike in Paris.

A few tens of metres are on display. A projected, 15 minute extract shows the backdrop’s use in the show: it pans from Beaubourg to the Grand Palais, where the story’s two puppet protagonists cross paths, make each other’s acquaintance, hail a cab...

Length: 15 min/Acrylic on oilcloth



▼ ***Drawing portfolio***

Studies for the first scene of the show 'Dark Circus'

Ink on paper / 100x60cm portfolio / easel





▲ Animation

Animation from the show 'Dark Circus'.

The animation is shown here as raw material. On stage, live-composed backdrops and drawings and manipulations interact with the film.

Duration: 10 min / Felt-tip pen on tracing paper



▲ May Wang

Stages of an investigation into the figure of May Wang for the knife-throwing number in the show 'Dark Circus'.

Paper cutouts



▲ ***Paintings***

Three canvases covered in black gouache, then overlaid with black ink drawings of images from the show 'Dark Circus'. The angle of the lights and the movement of the viewer bring the scenes into brilliant view.

Gouache / ink / canvas 1.5mx1.5m

▼ Paintings

Six paintings from the show 'The Oversized Costumes'.

This serie, with its single subject evolving over time, shows the successive transformations that are required before coming to a definitive form.

The first in the series is a monotype made on stage over the course of the first few performances.

This gradually became a colourful acrylic painting.

The last painting is the final version as it was made on stage. The projection shows the sequence in its succession: the camera goes through the drawing and dives into a model bus attached beneath the work table.

Mixed media on paper / Transformed tool box / Acrylic / Foam / Projection



▼ ***Sketches and investigations***

Series of mixed media drawings on paper, showing the company's creative process: initial notes, stages of research, definitive sketches...

Mixed media on paper



▼ ***Wall of fluorescent drawing***

This work is made up of about forty drawings made on stage during the show 'The Oversized Costumes'.
The repetitiveness of these paintings, all representing a single scene, shows the multiplicity of their interpretation.

Acrylic on paper



▼ ***Night in a Citroën 2CV***

Interactive extract from the show 'Paid Leave'.

A lever triggers a panoramic backdrop and a sound byte from the show. Lights come on and a 2CV appears to drive over a country road at night.

Felt-tip pen on vinyl / cardboard / acrylic



▼ **Vinyl disk**

Interactive extract from the show 'Paid Leave'.

The viewer pushes a button and sets the vinyl disk moving on the turntable.

Pieces of a set—a cardboard truck, a rock made of brown wrapping paper—make up the image of an HGV driving along the seaside.

The image is filmed and projected.

Vinyl disk / vinyl / cardboard / ink / gouache



▼ **Pop Up**

Some drawings made for the show 'The Oversized Costumes' but not used in the performance.

Gouache and pencil on paper



▼ **Drawing Wall. 'Stereoptik' Drawing 1**

These three series of drawings were made on stage during the show 'Stereoptik'. In their repetitiveness, all representing a single scene, they show the multiplicity of its interpretation. Each drawing includes a caption locating it in time and place.

Charcoal and graphite on paper





▲ ***Drawing Wall. 'Stereoptik' Drawing 2***

Chalk on paper



▲ Drawing Wall. 'Stereoptik' Drawing 3

Felt-tip pen on Japanese paper

▼ Diorama

Part of the set used for the show 'The Oversized Costumes'.
On stage, this painted cardboard piece unfolds before the protagonist as he makes his way down the street.

Cardboard / acrylic



▼ ***Haunted House***

Part of the set used for the show 'The Oversized Costumes'.
On stage, the camera puts the audience in the shoes of the story's protagonist as it travels into this gloomy room.
The extract from the sequence is projected on the wall.

Cardboard / acrylic / bone / paper





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