

art 3 (Valence) et LE CAP (Saint-Fons)

Project «De la Vallée de la chimie au Port de Valence. Une expérience artistique à l'échelle du paysage» / Project «*From Chemical Valley to the Port of Valence, an art experience on a par with the landscape*»

andrea caretto / raffaella spagna

Retour sans préavis / *Back without Warning*

Exhibition at art3, Valence, France

September - November 2011

Project supported by Europe FEDER (Région Rhône-Alpes – Plan Rhône), FNADT – Plan Rhône), Région Rhône-Alpes. in partnership with Moly-Sabata artists residency – Fondation Albert Gleizes.

Back without Warning

From Chemical Valley to the Port of Valence, an art experience on a par with the landscape

In the wake of the first presentation, at the CAP in Saint-Fons, of the residency output of artists Raffaella Spagna & Andrea Caretto, art3 is now welcoming the final stage of the project begun in autumn 2010. A number of encounters have added to their interpretation of the highly varied landscape between Saint-Fons and Valence, and the artists have used samples taken directly from the Rhône to create these visual forms reflecting its many-sided character.

This project sees them making contact with the river and using their presence on its territory to set up a relationship both physical and conceptual. The resultant ephemeral works are part of a dynamic whose emphasis would seem to be on the testing out and transmission of knowledge via a representational field (landscape) and its formal rendering (sculpture, images, performance).

Driven by the urge to « bring the river back » into the city that has been cut off from it, the artists have created for art3 a journey intruded on by a near-imperceptible series of actions. Moving from the Rhone to the art3 exhibition space in Valence's Old Town, they have set out to provide a symbolic remedy for the radical break between the city and its river by building a fountain whose water comes from the Rhone: a dynamic sculpture that will bring a breath of fresh air to the venue with its flowing movement and its sound. Usually situated in the centre of town squares, fountains have played a social and political role, notably in the taming of water. For the artists, « bringing back » the Rhône in the exhibition means blurring the boundary between indoors and outdoors, between the domestication of water and its « natural » state. They have already tackled this duality in a number of earlier works.

A second segment has them reversing their approach by posting some of the many images collected during their residency on the walls of the city. This « open air show » will be presented several times in the course of the exhibition, with the images suddenly popping up as people turn a corner or walk down the street. Modified and fragmentary, they offer information about the city's history, past and present. Just as the river sometimes overflows its banks, these discreet black and white posters will slip into the city as part of a poetic gesture of transformation and regeneration.

The artists have repeatedly stressed that our relationship with the river has so far been determined by the spirit of industrial conquest that has shaped the Rhône and its setting. This relationship can now be seen as allied to observation of mute « invisible forms » through which can be glimpsed a memory, a recollection waiting to be reactivated

Anne Giffon-Selle / Sylvie Vojik





Views from the exhibition «Retour sans préavis / Back without warning», art3 - Art Contemporain, Valence, France (2011)

A complex water system, fed with Rhône river water, innervate all the exhibition space, creating two interconnected installations concerning Rhône river domestication and relation between Valence inhabitants and the Rhône river.

left and bottom right > Nineteen sluice gates fountain, 2011 - water from Rhône river, plastic boxes, submersed pump, hydraulic materials, transparent pipes, nylon string, basin for garden pools

top right > Spring, 2011 - water from Rhône river, molten lead poured in water, salad bowl, nylon string

Production Art3 (Valence) and CAP (Saint-Fons) - more infos at www.art-3.org/projets-territoire/aaaart3-valence-et-le-cap-de-saint-fons-invite.php



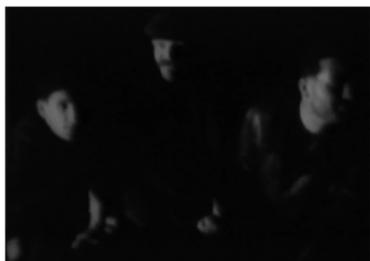
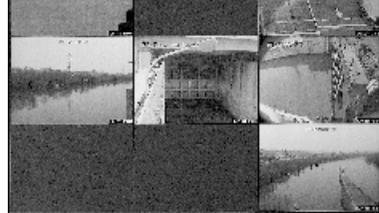
Performance with a group of children from the primary schools of Valence, that took place on the opening day of the exhibition «Retour sans préavis / Back without warning», art3 - Art Contemporain, Valence (France), 22th september 2011

We transported collectively 250 litres of river Rhône water, from the riverside to the art center, needed to supply the installation «Nineteen sluice gates fountain» in the exhibition.

Nineteen sluice gates fountain, 2011
*Water from Rhône river, plastic boxes, submersed pump, hydraulic materials, transparent pipes,
nylon string, basin for garden pools.*

Exhibition «Retour sans préavis / Back without warning», art3 - Art Contemporain, Valence, France (2011)





Flyers distributed through a *viral leafleting* campaign in the city of Valence the days before the opening of the exhibition «Retour sans préavis / Back without warning»

Digue du Rhône, Valence (10-03-2011), Île de la Goulue Gervans (28-11-2010); Ecluse de Pierre Bénite (30-11-2010); carte postale de Valence © Collection Guy Dürrenmatt – archive Maison du Fleuve Rhône, Givors; Île de la Table Ronde, Vernaison (22-11-2010); Tunnel de Valence (10-03-2011); Image extraite du film « Les Pirates du Rhône », Jean Aurenche, Pierre Charbonnier, 1933 – archive Maison du Fleuve Rhône, Givors; Grottes Mandrin, Plateau de Lautagne, Valence (16-03-2011).

TOUT POUR L'EAU

Tout pour l'eau, 2011
Light-box installed in the public space (tunnel Avenue de la Comète, Valence), powered by a little solar photovoltaic panel 40 x 30 cm



Tout pour l'eau, 2011

Light-box installed in the public space at the entrance of the tunnel Avenue de la Comète, Valence (France), powered by a little solar photovoltaic panel - 40 x 30 cm
day-time (left) and night-time(right)

We took a picture of a neon sign of a pools accessories shop sited near Sablons (France) and installed it in a light-box at the entrance of the tunnel in Avenue de la Comète, Valence (France), nowadays the only way of connection between downtown Valence and the Rhône riverside; indeed the highway A7, built in the '60 to connect Lyon to Marseille, constitute a barrier that completely separate the city from the river.

TOUT POUR L'EAU

