

MAMCO GENEVE
27.02.19-05.05.19
PRESS KIT

René Daniëls, *Fragments from an Unfinished Novel*
Martin Kippenberger, *The Museum of Modern Art Syros*
Gordon Matta-Clark, *FOOD*
Marcia Hafif, *Inventory*
Richard Nonas, *Riverrun (from Swerve to Bend)*

Opening: Tuesday February 26, 2019 (6pm)
Exhibitions visible through May 5, 2019

MAMCO Genève
10, rue des Vieux-Grenadiers
1205 Geneva



RENÉ DANIËLS

Fragments from an Unfinished Novel

René Daniëls is well-known today for his “bow tie” paintings, the name given to the *Mooie Tentoonstellingen* (“Beautiful Exhibitions”) series, produced between 1984 and 1987. A single motif is repeated throughout: three trapezoidal surfaces are arranged to suggest a perspective view of a gallery lined with pictures. This enigmatic series was the primary focus of Daniëls’s exhibition at the Bern Kunsthalle in 1987, shortly before his stroke. As in his other paintings, the simple-seeming motif conceals multiple layers of meaning.

The title (in fact, a sub-title) by which the series is known seems too ordinary by far: we detect a hint of irony. As with some earlier works (*The Most Contemporary Picture Show*, *La Muse Vénale...*), Daniëls’s choice of words subverts any hint of depth, and any possibility of simple, straightforward contemplation, at one and the same time. In this sense, the exhibition views seem to embody a form of institutional critique, both mirroring and caricaturing the ways in which pictures become fetishized in a formal, exhibition context. As such, the paintings echo the deconstruction of the *white cube* enacted by artists and critics alike, in the 1970s.

In some paintings, a microphone or a piano are glimpsed in the middle of the exhibition space while the artist lurks at the back, waiting to “take the stage.” The pictures stand as a reminder of how the art system of the 1980s—with its burgeoning commercial market and blockbuster exhibitions—fostered the emergence of the artist as show-person and performer, a concept revisited in the exhibition *Art & Entertainment* at MAMCO in 2018. Indeed, the bow tie makes its very first appearance in Daniëls’s work in a painting showing the artist as a kind of smartly dressed stage magician (shown here on the first floor).

But always in Daniëls’s work, the art-world critique is balanced by a more personal, poetic

flip side. Some spaces are highly reminiscent of the archetypal settings favoured in the art of memory. In some bow tie pictures, for example, we encounter memories of past works arranged as curious visual puzzles. This cartography of memory is developed in the *Lentebloesem* (“Spring flowers”) whose branching forms connect disparate words, in a manner reminiscent of the associative logic of memory.

The presence of keyholes metaphorizes the essential mystery of these paintings while at the same time instating the viewers as voyeurs of a kind, searching for a definitive meaning that continually eludes us. The painting *Mémoire d’un oubli* (“A memory of a forgetting”) exemplifies this dialectic between transparency and opacity: above two trapezoidal forms, the word *PORTE* (“door”) appears twice, the right way up and upside-down, one on top of the other. We stand before Daniëls’s two-way doors, simultaneously on the threshold of the painting and about to step outside it altogether. Lastly, one should note how Daniëls upends his bow ties vertically, transforming them into look-outs or vantage points. In the simple act of turning a motif on its side, we feel the painting itself may be scrutinising us in turn.

CONTACTS & INFORMATION

MAMCO Press Contact

For all requests, information and visuals, please contact:

MAMCO Geneva
Viviane Reybier
v.reybier@mamco.ch
tél. +41 22 320 61 22

International Press Contact
Sutton / Alexandra Ross
alexandra@suttonpr.com
+44 (0)7 715 216 971

Informations

MAMCO
Musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Genève
10, rue des Vieux-Grenadiers
CH-1205 Geneva

Tel. +41 22 320 61 22
Fax +4122 781 56 81

www.mamco.ch

Monday: closed
Tuesday–Friday: 12-6pm
Saturday–Sunday: 11- 6pm

PARTNERS

MAMCO is overseen by FONDAMCO, which is made up of FONDATION MAMCO, the Canton, and City of Geneva.

MAMCO would like to thank all its partners, both public and private, and in particular: JTI and Fondation de Famille Sandoz, Fondation de bienfaisance du Groupe Pictet, as well as Fondation Coromandel, Fondation Lombard Odier, Fondation Valeria Rossi di Montelera, Loterie Romande, Mirabaud & Cie SA, Richemont, Sotheby's.

The current exhibitions are supported by Dick van Nievelt Stichting and Fondation genevoise de bienfaisance Valeria Rossi di Montelera.

Media partners: Le Temps, Agefi

Hotel partner: Le Richemont

Partners: Belsol, Café des bains, Chemiserie Centrale, ComputerShop, Payot, Print Them All, ReproSolution

Main Sponsors



Fondation Philanthropique
Famille Sandoz



Sponsors

Fondation genevoise
de bienfaisance
Valeria Rossi di Montelera



Donors



Dick van Nievelt
Stichting

Partners

CHRISTIE'S Sotheby's

FUNDACIÓN
ALMINE Y BERNARD
RUIZ-PICASSO
PARA EL ARTE

Media Partners

LE TEMPS

AGEFI



Hotel partner



MAMCO GENEVE
27.02.19-05.05.19