



Michel Couturier

**Un Royaume sans Frontière
terraferma**

Project's Curator
Rosa Anna Musumeci

Opening

Thursday 13 June 2019 h 6 p.m. > 9 p.m.
On The Contemporary - curated by Anna Guillot
Cortile Palazzo Manganeli, Piazza Manganeli, 16 Catania

Saturday, 15 June, 2019 from h 7,30 p.m.
Courtyard SPIAZZō Zō CCC with the support of Sergio Zinna and Zō
Piazzale Rocco Chinnici 6, Catania

Michel Couturier (1957,Be) is a technically eclectic artist: painting, drawing, print, photography, video, performance are among his familiar tools, often analytically combined, i.e., submitted to sequential transformations/declinations, metamorphoses of the very same matter. Whatever the matter, the object is thus transfigured into some mental state of the creative subject. And besides the mere *imitatio naturae* never was at the core of the artistic gesture, whose significance basically rests on the representation/witness/statement of cultural attitudes, choices, visions, denunciations of reality. Thus, Couturier's works show both familiar and odd objects: pebbles are not really pebbles, trellises and banners suggest trees and forests, a parking area speaks of alienation and incommunicability, and ports and landscapes allude to travelling, migratory fluxes, intercultural crossings and tensions.

Beneath an invariably formal accuracy, what steps in is a wholly allegoric universe, whose images are exceptionally powerful in this exhibition because they come from an environment imbued with the sharpest contradictions. The shown works are in fact the outcome of a triennial research, brought about in Sicily and whose preliminary dossier was presented in 2018 by Musumeci Contemporary in Brussels, providing a seduced as well as disquieting and denouncing picture. In short, both strident and unavoidable reactions take place in this outpost of Europe besieged by all sorts of ethno-cultural migrations and contaminations; economically backward, though by no means underdeveloped; provided with a monumental and environmental heritage combining worldwide uniqueness and ferocious devastations. The unfinished infrastructures, the ruins of architectural masterpieces, the concrete besieging nature (epitomized by the Pergusa lake, once evoking the myth of "Proserpina abduction", now encircled by an abandoned motor racing track and on the way of drying up) are thus telling the epic, abject and sublime, tale of the human condition.

After Brussels, and following the year of Palermo Italian cultural capital and Manifesta12, Couturier brings now in Catania his antirhetorical tune, his anticelebratory homage, and a proposition for reflection wavering among perplexity, enchantment, and redemption chances.

Bio

Michel Couturier lives and works in Brussels. He works with photography, videos and drawing in relation to sculpture, architecture and the public space. Since 2001, his work questions the city and its surroundings, often in connection with mythology and traces of it in a contemporary landscape.

He has shown his work in Brussels, Gand, Anvers, Lille, Roubaix, Tourcoing, Marseille, Paris, Geneva, Montreal, Rotterdam, Berlin and Valencia. Some of his recent exhibitions in 2014: Galerie du tableau, Marseille; Espace Été 78, Brussels; Croxhapox, Gand; and in 2015: Musée de la Photographie, Charleroi and Loods 12, Wetteren (Gand).

His work is part of several private collections as well as public ones, such as those of the BNF, Paris; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; the Fédération Wallonie, Brussels; the Province of Hainaut, Charleroi; Michel Couturier has also produced numerous temporary and permanent interventions in public spaces.

On line/Info

<http://michelcouturier.com/>

<http://commission-des-arts.wallonie.be/opencms/opencms/fr/integrations/createurs/couturier.html>

www.artsplastiques.cfwb.be/index.php?id=16066

www.rtb.be/musiq3/article/detail_michel-couturier-il-y-a-plus-de-feux-que-d-etoiles?id=9036351

<http://www.galeriecerami.be/artist.php?id=119>

Acknowledgments – Giovanni Costanzo, Filippo Pappalardo, Gabriella Musumeci Pirronello, Felicia Musumeci, Gianpiero Vincenzo, Valentina Barbagallo. Graphic Design Giuseppe Mendolia Calella Photo credits Alessandro Costanzo

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