

Elsa Werth
A LAND

OPENING on Thursday 23 January 2020 in the presence of the artist
EXHIBITION from 24 January to 7 March 2020

Elsa Werth develops a work with multiple forms: installations, videos or sound pieces. Her minimalist works call out for the derisory or trivial aspect, in which the recognition of insignificant acts as a provocation, a testing of space and the context.

From the ordinary, Elsa Werth creates the extraordinary, through an economy of means that diverts objects from their daily use. The artist claims antispectacular gestures as resistance tactics that challenge the conditions of the appearance of a work and the systems of representation in an administered and programmed setting.

The artist once again uses a diversion, this time of the map, questioning the notions of borders and territories, with the main work of the exhibition, *A Land*, produced by mfc-michèle didier. As the Situationists diversions and psycho-geographic cartographies diverted the official map "to make it say what it hides"[1], Elsa Werth creates a map where unfolds an imaginary, unique and infinite space.

A notion of infinity that reminds us of Gilles Deleuze's words on the fold. But if the characteristic of the map is to be folded and unfolded, the fold of *A Land* has the particularity of bringing opposites closer together, reducing distances, and blurring the boundaries it calls for. Unfolded, the map then becomes a dreamed, even utopian space.

A Land is the result of a collage, a list of all common names beginning with the letter A, taken in the alphabetical order of the English dictionary, to which the suffix "land" has been systematically added.

Abackland, Aaftland, Abandonland, Abandonmentland, Abandonmentland, Abaseland, Abasementland, ...

Built on the same structure as the names of real countries such as Switzerland, Greenland, Holland, Poland, these terms, although fictional, make sense. They bring together different metaphorical registers that alternately evoke freedom, oppression, absurdity, triviality, abstraction, exoticism. Oscillating between promises and fears, these terms echo current events and question the nature and very meaning of our relationship with the territories.

In the exhibition, *A Land* is displayed with the 48'32" sound work entitled *Anywayland*, and *Stopper Knot (Nœud d'arrêt)*, a simple wire stretched in space. Under its apparent simplicity, *Stopper Knot* confronts the spectator with the complex notion of border and invites her/him to experiment the act of crossing.

[1] Emmanuel Guy, *Debord(er) la carte*, published 1st May 2012 on Strabic.fr

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ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

Elsa Werth was born in 1985 in Paris, where she lives and works.

Graduate of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs and the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris, she completed the research program Creation and Globalization of the Offshore School in Shanghai.

PERSONAL EXHIBITIONS

2020

A Land, Galerie mfc-michèle didier, Paris

Personal exhibition at the Centre des Livres d'Artistes, Saint-Yrieix-la-Perche, France

2019

Anywayland, Interface, Dijon, France

Temps Partiel, Centre d'art de l'Onde, Vélizy-Villacoublay, France | curated by Géraldine Miquelot

2018

L'action cesse, Duplex / Walden, Genève | curated by Paul Paillet

2017

Perspectives provisoires, Galerie Martine Aboucaya, Paris

2016

Titre un à usage multiple, Bazar Compatible Program n°138, 98 Anshun Road, stall 26, Shanghai

Titre un à usage multiple, Galerie Martine Aboucaya, Paris

2014

J-----21/91, Primo Piano, Paris | curated by Lucia Schreyer

Plus Une pièce, box de stockage n°378, Une Pièce en Plus, Paris | curated by Muriel Leray and Elsa Werth

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019

Pourquoi faire, pour quoi faire, Été 78, Bruxelles, Belgium | curated by Renato Casciani and Été 78

ShipShape, Biennale de Coimbra, Portugal | curated by parallèle of Tomas Cunha

Ferreira

Signes, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Art de Limoges, France | curated by Louis Zerathe

Calculated Chance, Société, Bruxelles, Belgium | curated by Manuel Abendroth and Els Vermang

Some of Us, Nordart, Büdelsdorf, Germany | curated by Jérôme Cotinet-Alphaize and Marianne Derrien

mfc-michèle didier

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Place Oddity, Artist Residency Huet-Repolt, Bruxelles, Belgium | curated by Damien Dion
Éléments de langage II, Tilder Paris, France | curated by Camila Oliveira Fairclough
Thundercage #3, 2 rue Heurtault, Aubervilliers, France | curated by Romain Vicari
26 X Bauhaus, Institut Français de Berlin, Germany | curated by Marjolaine Lévy and Thibaut de Ruyter
Tilt Horizon, Art Museum of Nanjing University of the Arts, Nanjing, China | curated by Yamin Wang
One Minute, One Hour, One Month ... One Million Years, The Island Club, Limassol |
 curated by Christodoulos Panayiotou

2018

Le génie du lieu, Le Creux de l'Enfer, Thiers, France | curated by Sophie Auger-Grappin
Post-Disaster Residencies 2018, Stadium de Vitrolles, France | curated by Paul Paillet and Jonathan Vidal
Phantoms, Wonder/Liebert, Bagnolet, France | curated by Karin Schlageter
Artist-fun space, Centre des Arts André Malraux, Douarnenez, France | curated by Julien Nédélec
Orange Rouge, Chai de Bercy, Paris, France | curated by Corinne Digard and Barbara Sirieix
Off Pac 2018, Marseille, France | curated by Paul Paillet and Jonathan Vidal

2017

Flatland / abstractions narratives #2, MUDAM, Luxembourg | curated by Marianne Derrien
 and Sarah Ihler-Meyer
Sentimental Summer, Centre d'Art Bastille, Grenoble, France | curated by Emilie Baldini
La vie mode d'emploi, Centre d'Art Contemporain Chanut, Clamart, France | curated by
 Madeleine Mathé and Karin Schlageter
Off Pac 2017, Marseille, France | curated by Paul Paillet and Jonathan Vidal
Do Disturb X Nouvelle Collection Paris, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
Nouvelle Collection Paris / Automne-Hiver 2018, Beaux-Arts de Paris, France | curated by
 Sarah Nefissa and Tania Gheerbrant

2016

Rob is a Robe, Doc Paris | curated by DOC and Nouvelle Collection Paris, France
Nouvelle Collection Paris, ENSBA Paris, France | curated by Sarah Nefissa Belhadjali and
 Tania Gheerbrant
Quelques manuscrits trouvés dans une cervelle..., Galerie Martine Aboucaya, Paris, France
 10 9 19, rue de Meaux n° 26, 75019 Paris, France | curated by Karin Schlageter

2015

(Et pour) quelques minutes de plus, La Générale en Manufacture, Sèvres, France | curated by After Hours
Ligne de mire, Galerie Martine Aboucaya, Paris, France
La Ludothèque éphémère du 8, rue Saint-Bon, Paris, France | curated by Florencia Chernajovsky
 and Clément Dirié
 11 rue de l'Aqueduc, Galerie Nord, Paris, France | curated by Marie Glaize and Elsa Werth
60 ème Salon de Montrouge, France | curated by Stéphane Corréard
Bazar, Primo Piano, Paris, France | curated by Lucia Schreyer
Châteaux de cartes, Florence Loewy...by artists, Paris, France | curated by Camille Azaïs
Intertidal, Galerie Eva Meyer, Paris, France | curated by MBDCurators

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2014

Toujours +, Florence Loewy...by artists, Paris, France | curated by Muriel Leray and Elsa Werth

Plus Une Pièce, Plus Un Multiple, Paris, France | created and curated by Muriel Leray and Elsa Werth

2013

5/5, Fondation Rosenblum & Friends, Paris, France | curated by Clément Dirié

Marler Media Art Award, Museum of Sculpture Glaskasten, Marl, Germany | curated by Georg Elben

Modifications, ZK/U, Center For Arts, Berlin, Germany | curated by Lucia Schreyer

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

Since 2014, Elsa Werth has been at the initiative of curatorial projects that experiment alternative exhibition formats, with the aim of inviting artists to bring the works to life in broader public contexts, outside the art circuit and its market.

2019

Street Art | curated by Camila Oliveira Fairclough and Elsa Werth

2018

Phantoms | curated by Alderic Trével and Elsa Werth

2016

Potentiels évoqués visuels, travelling exhibition | curated by Elsa Werth

2015

11 rue de l'Aqueduc, Galerie Nord, Paris, France | curated by Marie Glaize and Elsa Werth

2014

Toujours +, Galerie Florence Loewy, Paris France | curated by Muriel Leray and Elsa Werth

Plus Une Pièce | Plus Un Multiple, box de stockage Une Pièce en Plus, Paris, France | curated by Muriel Leray and Elsa Werth

AWARDS

2014

Nominated for Marler media art award 2014, Marl, Germany

2013

Laureate of Amis des Beaux-Arts award: Humankind Léo Burnett 2013

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2012

Nominated for André Targe award for a first documentary, Grenoble, France

2008

Laureate of Frédéric de Carfort drawing award - Fondation de France, Paris

RESIDENCES

2019

Research residency, Centre des Livres d'Artistes, Saint-Yrieix-la-Perche, France

Research residency and creation in a company, Adhex Technologies, Chenôve, France

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2019

Géraldine Miquelot, exhibition's text *Temps Partiel*, Centre d'art de l'Onde, January 2019

2017

Pedro Morais, Le Quotidien de l'Art, Friday, March 24 2017

2016

Benoit Blanchard, exhibition's review, *Titre un à usage multiple*, Galerie Martine Aboucaya, Paris

2015

Simon Bergala, Edition Salon de Montrouge, 2015

Ingrid Luquet-Gad, Les Inrocks.com, exhibition's review, 60ème Salon de Montrouge, May 2015

2014

Plus Une Pièce | Plus Un Multiple, Editions Keep Thinking, Paris, 2014

Sarah Kristin Happersberger in Marler Medienkunst Preise 2014, Editions Wienand, Marl

Ingrid Lucquet-Gad, Editions Ensba Paris, Autumn 2014

Marianne Robin, 'Art en stock', Arts Magazine n°87, May 2014, p.30

2013

Lucia Schreyer, tiré à part, Code Magazine 2.0, n°7, Autumn 2013

FESTIVALS | PROJECTIONS

2017

Clips Claps, video projection, curated by Caro Sposo, Cinémathèque Robert-Lynen, Paris, France

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2009
Festival Temps d'image, La Ferme du Buisson, Marne-la-Vallée, France

2014
Rencontres Internationales Paris / Berlin / Madrid

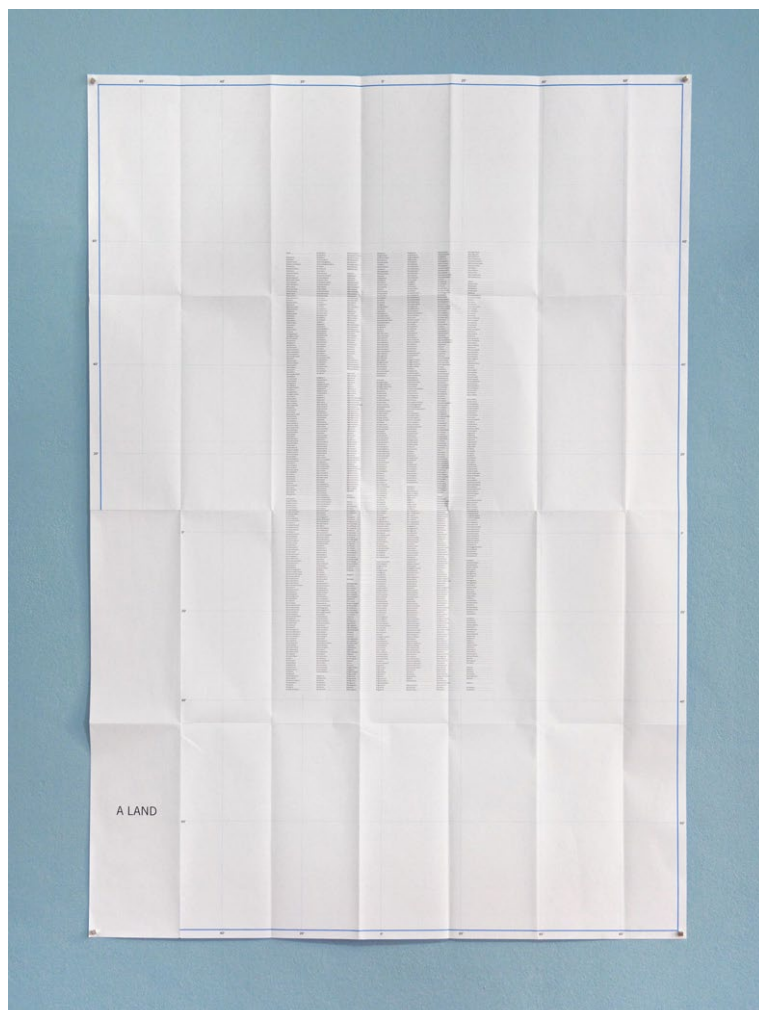
2013
Video programming for the 58ème Salon de Montrouge | curated by Treize

2012
Journées André Targe, Grenoble, France

2011
Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival, Kassel, Allemagne

2010
4th Cairo Video Art and Experimental films Festival, Medrar for Contemporary Art Egypt
International Short Film Festival, Hamburg, Allemagne
European Media Art Festival, Osnabrück, Allemagne
Festival Némó, Paris, France

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A Land

Sheet of 99 x 69 cm

Printed on 70g white offset paper then folded as a road map

Limited edition of 60 copies and 15 artist's proofs

Signed and numbered by the artist

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Elsa Werth
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Elsa Werth
A Land, detail

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Elsa Werth
Stopper Knot
Variable dimensions
Black polypropylene yarn, diameter 3 mm
Blue polypropylene yarn, diameter 1 mm
Unique piece
2019

Elsa Werth
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Anywayland
48'32"
Sound file, loop
Limited edition of 3 + 1 A.P.
2019

Extract to discover by clicking on the link below.

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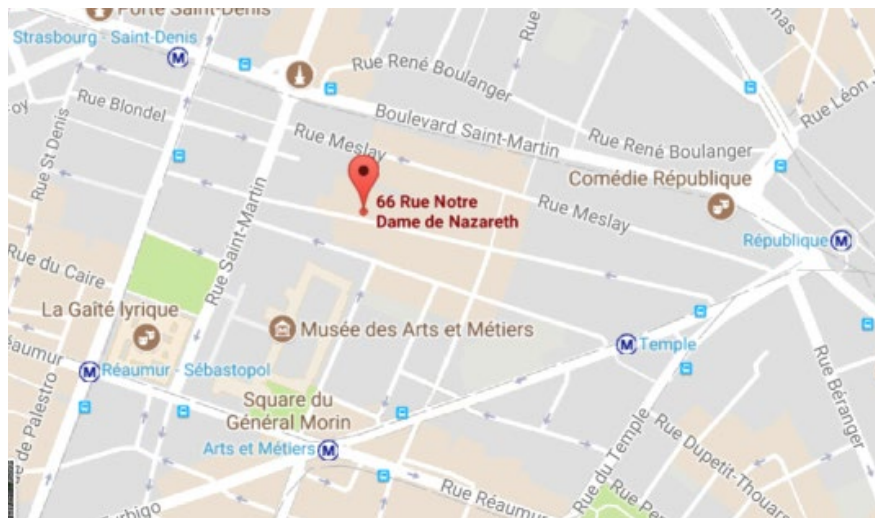
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