

Biennale de Paris, a mapping attempt

Exhibition, September 15 – October 21, 2012

Opening, 15th September, 6-9 pm.

A proposition by H  l  ne Meisel, at the invitation of Claire Moul  ne in the frame of the second edition of the Biennale de Belleville.

This proposition revisits the geography of the defunct Biennale de Paris (1959-1985) and explores its ambition to expand the map of the art world. « Young, interdisciplinary and international » : the biennial wanted to differ from Venice and Kassel by its experimental and prospective vocation. Although more than forty countries have participated, the effort of internationalization was sometimes problematic, because international relations often dictated cultural diplomacy : revolutions, takeovers and dictatorships prevented some collaborations. In addition to these political obstacles came the lack of visibility of some art scenes, untouched by the cosmopolitanism of international style. Despite attempts to rebalance, 80% of some 7000 participants will be Western, French for third. The three objects reconstituted for this exhibition - artworks and documents - will address various forms of travel, from journey to exile : the anthropological exploration (  ngel Kalenberg), the avant-garde offensive or emergency evacuation (Tam  s St . Auby) and the « mapping essay » (office abc + Sarah Kremer).

+ *Latin America in 240 slides, lecture*

Slideshow reactivation by Camila Bechelany, H  l  ne Meisel and Annabela Tournon

October 4, 7- 8.30 pm, at Caf   au lit

October 11, 8-9.30, at Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers (41 rue L  cuyer 93300 Aubervilliers)

This lecture reactivates a visual device kept in storage for the last 35 years : 240 slides collected in 1977 by the Uruguayan curator   ngel Kalenberg for the 10th Biennale de Paris, and projected at Palais de Tokyo in the section dedicated to Latin America. Shown three by three, images formed combinations in the spirit of " synchronic pluralities ", suggesting survivals and disjunctions of a civilization : from the ruins of Teotihuacan to the Brasilia built by Niemeyer, from Jesuit baroque to Mexican muralism ...

With the support of the **Kandinsky Library** (Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris) and the **Archives de la critique d'art** (Rennes) and **Ecole nationale sup  rieure des Beaux-Arts de Lyon** (Print studio). In collaboration with Camila Bechelany & Annabela Tournon, office abc (Catherine Guiral and Brice Domingues) & Sarah Kremer, Camille Platevoet & Arnaud Daffos.