

sigismond de vajay

Thursday 4 October – Saturday 8 December 2012

Opening: Thursday 4 October from 6 pm

Xippas Arte Contemporáneo is pleased to announce Sigismond de Vajay's solo exhibition at its Montevideo gallery. This will be the first presentation of the Argentinean-Hungarian-Swiss artist, where he will be displaying his most recent work: watercolours and paintings engraved on metal, created mainly for this exhibition.

After his magnificent light and sound intervention at Puente de la Boca and surroundings, created in Buenos Aires at the end of last year for the Night of the Museums, De Vajay will be crossing over to Montevideo, bridging the artistic path between the two sides of the *Río de la Plata*, when Montevideo inaugurates its first Biennial of Visual Arts.

Sigismond de Vajay will present his work in the Uruguayan capital city, prior to his participation at the group exhibition of international contemporary art "*Apo-calyptse*" (Montreux, Switzerland), together with Jonathan Monk, Hans Op de Beeck, Ai Weiwei, amongst others, thus anticipating his own at Xippas gallery in Paris, and his participation at the Biennial of the Americas in 2013.

About the work of Sigismond de Vajay

"If modern times have brought along a productive system packed with artificial lights, brief images and vertigo, Sigismond de Vajay exploits all its implicit contradictions with the gesture of a landscaper, almost a chronicler, who anticipates the frightening, breathtaking beauty of our decadence.

Using traditional formats such as water colour –a very bucolic technique–, De Vajay accentuates the disturbing transformation of the exhausted nature he portrays. Cities trapped amongst cables and networks, individuals immersed in endless crowds, artificial paths which lead the life of the species towards dystopia. This world, our world, reveals itself as much artificial as it is unrecognisable. In other words, this build-up of cables and gadgets is the possible utopia, the sum of our efforts towards dominating the environment and proclaiming civilization as a superior stage.

(...)

Hence the temptation for disaster, the naked beauty of chaos. Each disarray in which history is put on hold offers the possibility of a new beginning. If the excess of intelligence can reach a catastrophic threshold, De Vajay's work holds that ultimate pleasure, the vision of he who faces the imminence of disaster".

Pedro Donoso

About Xippas

Xippas Gallery of Contemporary Art sets up in the Old City of Montevideo in 2010, and in Punta del Este in 2012, following their European development which starts in Paris 25 years ago, and continues with the opening of their Athens and Geneva galleries.

The gallery's activity in Uruguay starts by displaying the artwork of some of their distinguished artists from the contemporary international arena like Darren Almond, André Butzer, Marco Maggi, Vik Muniz, and then incorporates important local and regional artists.

Sigismond de Vajay's exhibition at Xippas Montevideo will be open to visits Monday to Friday from 12 noon to 7 pm and Saturdays from 11 am to 5 pm.

Sigismond de Vajay was born in Paris in 1972. At present he lives and works in Buenos Aires. He developed his career in Vevey, Barcelona and New York. His works can be found in different museums and private collections in Argentina, Chile, Spain, France, Switzerland and the USA, including the *Musée Jenisch* and the *Ahrenberg* collection (Switzerland).

In 2002 he founds in Barcelona, together with a group of culture enthusiasts, a platform to produce works of art and artistic events, the KBB (*Kültur Büro Barcelona*), which focuses on cultural products for museums, cultural centres and *kunsthalls* of France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Finland, Canada, Chile, Venezuela and Brazil.

Amongst the public and private institutions where he has exhibited his work or presented curatorial projects, the following stand out: *Museum of Modern Arts*, the *CCEBA* and *PROA Foundation*, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2011); *Chacao Centre*, Caracas, Venezuela (2010); *Modified Arts*, Phoenix, USA (2010); *Museo D'Imagem o Som (MIS)*, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2009); *Matucana 100*, Santiago, Chile (2007); *Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts*, Lausanne, Switzerland (2006); *Haus der Kultur, Salzvedel*, Germany (2006); *Viennabiennale*, Vienna, Austria (2006); *Riesa Efau, Kunsthalle* Dresden, Germany (2006); *Kunsthau Centre PasquArt, Biel/Bienne*, Switzerland (2005); *Volksystem*, Toulouse, France (2005); *Images Biennale*, Vevey, Switzerland (2006); *Le Confort Moderne*, Poitiers, France (2004); *Museo de las Ciencias Príncipe Felipe*, Valencia, España (2004); *Musée des Beaux Arts Sion*, Switzerland (2004); *KIBLA Centre for the Arts*, Maribor, Slovenia (2004); *At Home Gallery*, Samoria, Slovakia (2003); *Tranzit Foundation*, Cluj, Roumania (2003); *Centre d'Art Neuchâtel (CAN)*, Neuchâtel, Switzerland (2002); *Kaskadenkondensator, Projektraum für aktuelle Kunst und Performance*, Basel, Switzerland (1998).



Photo: Jorge Miño

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