

From: Trembley/Moisdon <videobdv@easynet.fr>
To: Vasif Kortun <kortun@netone.com.tr>
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2000 11:53 PM
Subject: about the complaint

Dear Vassif,

It was nice to meet you in Nantes. Concerning the situation, It's more and more complicated and the fight will be hard. I send you the communique text if you want to be informed. You can also send it to someone else if you think it could be helpfull.

Complaint against the exhibition " Pr sum s innocents ", CAPCMus e of Bordeaux.

The exhibition " Pr sum s innocents " in which you participated recently, was held in the CAPCMus e of Bordeaux from June 8 till October 1-st 2000. Through the presence of about 80 international artists, 200 works and 2 publications, this project was bearing upon some aesthetic, social and political issues dealing with the representation of the childhood, its status and its functions in contemporary art for the last thirty years.

This exhibition met a real success with the public and professionals (30 000 visitors), this in spite of the decision of the mayor of Bordeaux, Alain Jupp , not to support this project, to remove its name of documents and invitation cards and to forbid his deputies to attend the opening.

On October 25 of this year, Olivier Debelleix, a 40 years old person in charged of a shop, who visited the exhibition with his 10 and 4 years old daughters the last day, lodged a complaint before the dean of the Examining Magistrates of Bordeaux. This complaint is supported by an association based in the city of Agen, " The Gull ", founded in 1984. Its aim is to defend the respect for the child and its protection. The chairman of the association, Annie Gourgue, declared in a press conference of the 10 th October that " one discovers a vision of the children constructed by perverted, masochists and morbid adults ". According to her, the content of the exhibition and the catalogue is pornographic and violent and is an assault of the dignity of the child.

Christine Maze, a lawyer based in Bordeaux, bases her action on three articles of new penal code which punishe, so she says: " all those who create and diffuse children's images which have a pornographic, violent or pedophilic content ", who can be fined 500 000 French Francs and sentenced to 5 years.

This complaint not only aims at the curators of the exhibition, Marie-Laure Bernadac and St phanie Moisson Trembley, the director of the CAPCMus e at the time, Henry-Claude Cousseau, but also Institutions which lent the works, among which the Centre Georges Pompidou, the Museum of modern art of Paris, several FRAC, several major foreign museums and 24 artists who are named, such as Christian Boltanski, Joseph Bourban, Paul Mac Carthy, Marlene Dumas, Anna Gaskell, Paul - Armand Gette, Nan Goldin, Gary Gross, Carsten H ller, Cameron Jamie, Mike Kelley, Elke Krystufek, Inez van Lamsweerde, Annette Messager, Tony Oursler, Aura Rosenberg, Cindy Sherman, Wolfgang Tillmans, as well as Dan Graham and Robert Mapplethorpe who were not in the exhibition, but only mentionned as references by the authors of the catalogue.

The association demands that the artists appear before the Court to answer for the " message " they wanted us " to get across ", that the works concerned by the complaint are destroyed, and that the catalogues are seized.

It's an unprecedented event in front of which we must react collectively. This, in the name of the freedom of expression, the dignity of the artist, the respect for the works and for the mission of institutions and intellectuals.

This demand, irrespective of the specific context of this exhibition and of our battle as curators and responsible artists, to destroy the works brings us back with violence to a dark but still recent period of History. We can not remain indifferent, nor react in a isolated way.

Considering the gravity of these comments, knowing that the matter was referred to an examining magistrate, that the judicial machine is underway and that some people may be charged, one should from now on work on the defense that will be all the more efficient since we decide to work on it collectively.

We are entirely at your disposal to keep you informed about the development of this action, knowing that you are also welcome to join us in the battle.

Stéphanie Moisdon Trembley et Marie-Laure Bernadac, curators of the exhibition " Prémés innocents ".

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bdv - ART VIEW

55 rue Traversière - 75012 Paris

Phone/Fax: 01 44 67 30 98
