

PORTFOLIO STEPHANE ROY

SUMMARY

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ARTIST STATEMENT

Growing up on the fringes of our system, I was forever confronted with this society that segments, fragments, divides and ranks groups of individuals but, above all, with the multifarious aspects and 'twilight' zones specific to our human species. Infused by a somewhat chaotic past that propelled me to the extreme limits of human complexity, I eventually decided to take a stance, to act, in a world that I contemplated as a vast stage just waiting to be occupied, to be reclaimed.

Very quickly, my artistic and then my curatorial proposals focused on studying the various strata of reality, exploring our relationship with the world, with others and with ourselves. Then, humankind established itself as the main subject of my research and curiosity. A subject that intrigues me, that I analyse and dissect through a myriad of processes. A subject where I strive to perpetuate stimuli, pressures, nuances, where its complexity becomes a heavenly canopy in my own laboratory.

My artistic approach is undeniably cross-cutting. It follows in the footsteps of the initial graphic expressions of my youth and of my street art projects. Video performance, sculpture, installation, scenescape, photography and writing... a wealth of mediums that simultaneously play the roles of props and instruments allowing me to explore and develop my own artistic research – research that draws its inspiration from humanities, psychiatry, anthropology, fetishism as well as alternative cultures.

Concurrently, other forms of interaction, intensely, intrinsically related to my approach, enter into play: such as my series of Conversations, exchanges made with artists, scientists, thinkers and individuals from all walks of life who, through their visions, their outlook on the world of today, help develop our world of tomorrow (e.g.: Edgar Morin, Hans Ulrich Obrist, etc.).

My curatorial projects also fall in line with this ongoing research on flows that blend together in a highly-complex, perpetually-moving world, with particular focus on new trends and young emerging artists.

Each of my proposals embodies, as such, the desire for dialogue, communication that strikes a chord with my theoretical research, my analyses and the works I present. In conclusion, it is the means for conveying an understanding of Art, a belief in Art, as a medium that invokes a universal memory and a common language that transcend the segmentation, the fragmentation of origins, of cultures and of periods of time.

Quite simply, considering Art as an appreciable, perceptive intermediary that makes our lives, our world, a better place.



HIGHLIGHTS



The Laboratory of Anger Management, 2016. Installation, various dimensions. Palais de Tokyo, Paris

A structure dedicated to releasing destructive impulses is set up, offering the onlooker the possibility to destroy various objects, in a furnished and decorated scenescape (the aim is to propose all kind of materials picked up from the streets, where the citizen are throwing away their own belongings).

The whole room is equipped with cameras that record everything that takes place both inside and outside the room.

Before going in the room, the spectator-actor must follow a post-ritual that starts with the signature of a release. Then they are given a protective suit to wear before accessing the room. An aluminium baseball bat is provided.

The last instruction is given : "You have 30 seconds inside the room".



DAY 30 : The Wall of Motivations, or the modern madness of integration, 2018. Various dimensions (here : 10 x 4 meters), Brussels

Large scale installation in situ, made from 400 cover letters that I have written between 2012 and 2017.



The Mental Network, 2020. Installation & Netart. Brussels

“The Mental Network” is an interactive project. It is a combination of a website that is accessible to everyone, and a physical installation that is directly connected to this website : www.thementalnetwork.com

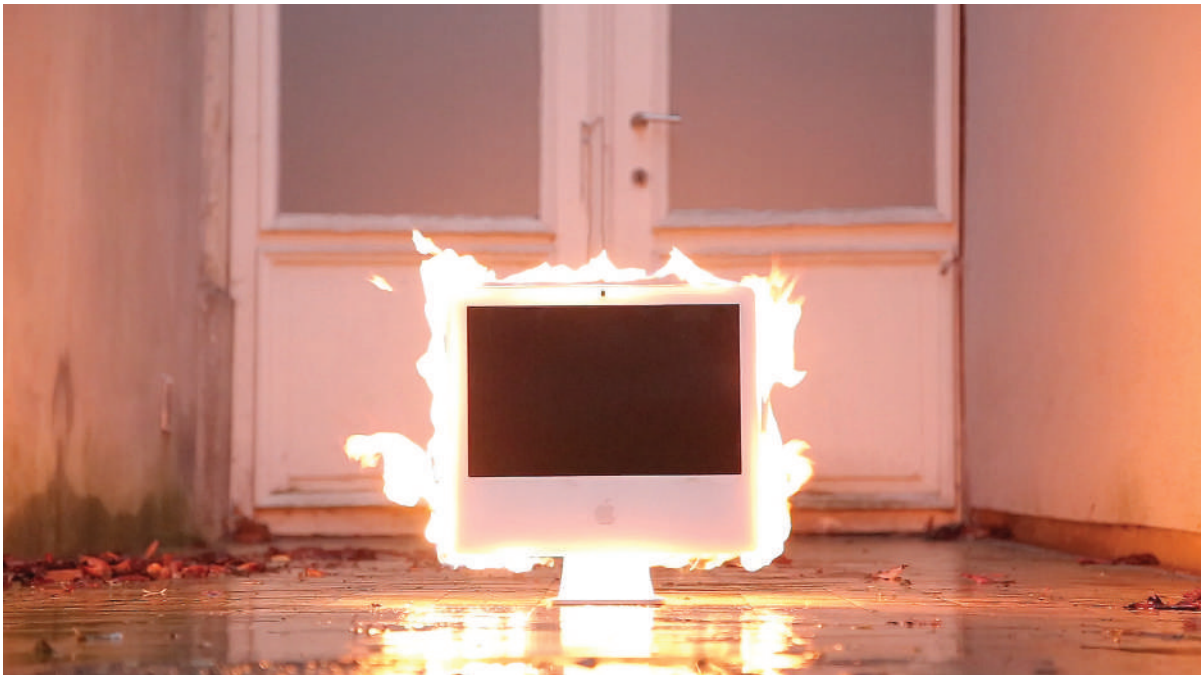
“What are you thinking about?”

This simple question can be answered in countless ways, from the lightest to the most intimate thoughts. The answers entered via the website, which is freely accessible, will feed the art installation in real time. Each answer is printed out by the installation and thus ensures a progressive extension thereof. The website will remain accessible until the exhibition ends. The interactive artwork that is being created will be constantly changing, inviting visitors to take a peek into someone else’s mind.

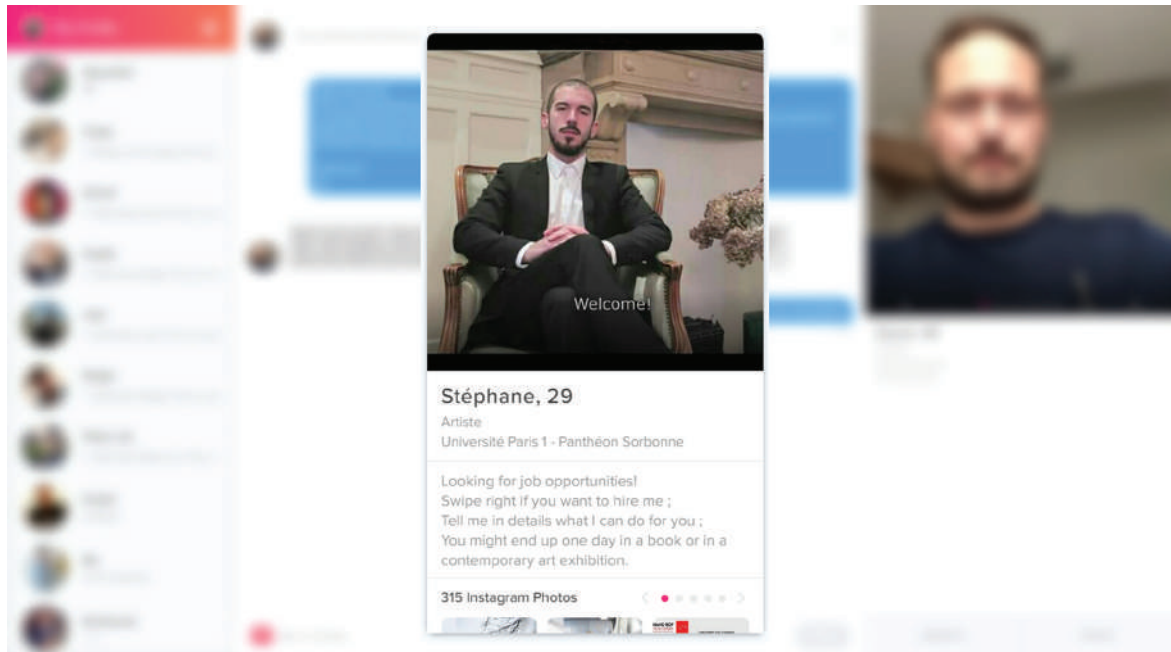


Burning Memories, 2017. Video. Brussels

A series of videos featuring objects, furniture and various forms of memories catching fire. Photographs, paintings and installations will be brought to complete this work which, in the end, will immerse the spectator in a vast sensitive environment.



DAY 10 : WThe Computer (from The Burning Memories Series), 2018. Video.Brussels

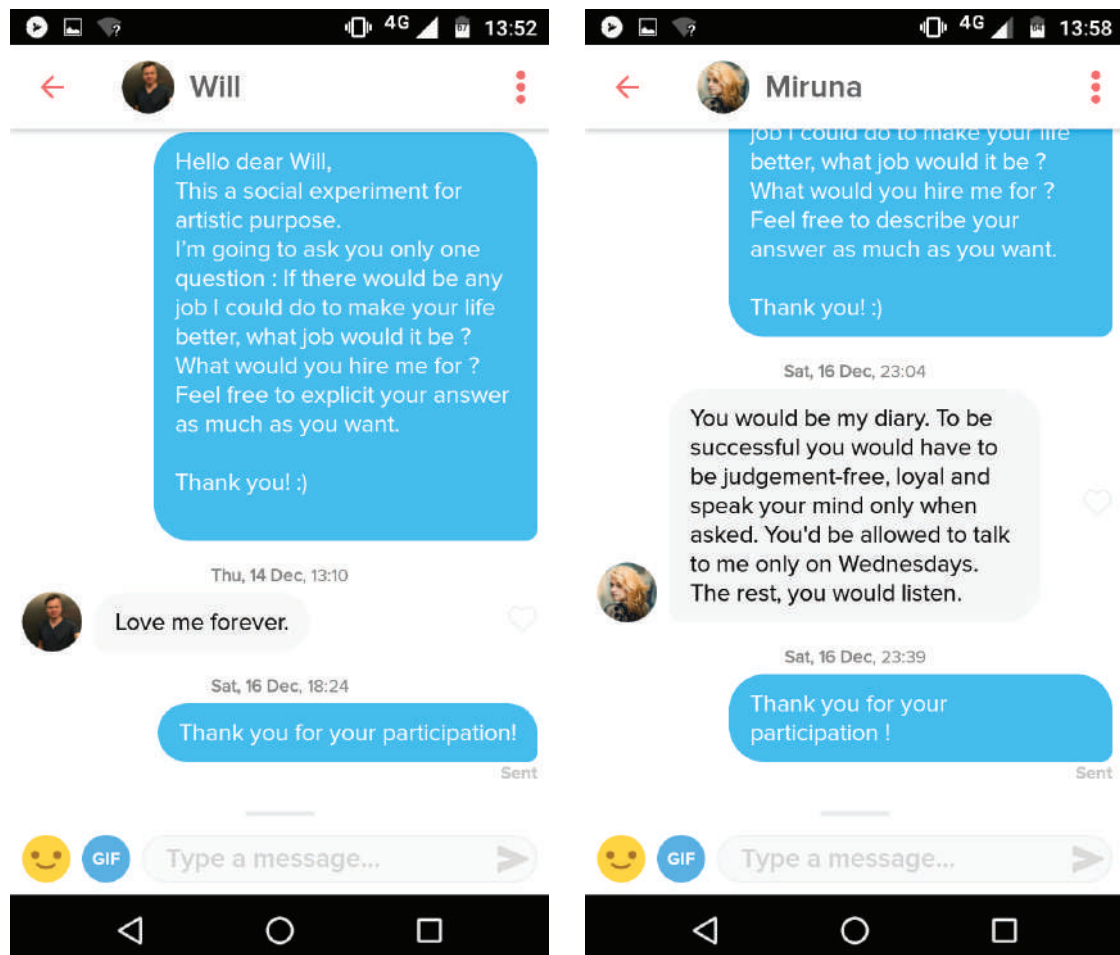


DAY 28 : Tinder Me - 1 question, 100 answers, 2018. Netart. Brussels

Experimentation carried out on Tinder for a period of a few days.

Only one question is asked of each “Matched” person: If there was any job that would allow me to make your life better, what would it be?

The responses gathered from a broad spectrum of the population (all ages, genders and ethnic origins combined) draw a large portrait of our time.





DAY 31 : Floating in Colored Smoke, 2018. Photography. Brussels



The Primal Scream Therapy, 2018. Videos, various durations. Brussels

Following a call for participation, people are invited to appear in front of the camera, with the aim of gradually embarking on a process of therapeutic scream.

Participants are asked to bring an object of their choice.

Alone in the room, people are left to themselves, acting according to their own impulses and desires, until reaching this moment of tension pushing them to scream.

Following this filmed performance, a second video is shot immediately after the experience of the participant. This second video is a short interview intended to collect the person's immediate testimony about the lived experience.

I° The Daily Disturbances (2006 - 2008)

The Daily Disturbances is a cycle of actions performed in public spaces and places where people would congregate. This series consisted of introducing an action that ran counter to the “normal” behaviour expected, disturbing the monotonous everyday life of the people present at that particular time and location.

Each performance is filmed with a hidden camera, including the reaction of the audience, an essential ingredient of the work developed.

In the end, these actions of various degrees of intensity, aim to deploy a broad anthropological and behavioral study in the form of social radiography of our occidental societies.



1. Hit him hard, 2006. Videoperformance. Lyon
2. Sunbathing in the subway, 2006. Videoperformance. Lyon
3. Watching TV, 2006. Videoperformance. Lyon
4. Taking a Fall (I), 2006. Videoperformance. Lyon
5. Taking a Fall (II), 2006. Videoperformance. Lyon
6. Burst of anger, 2006. Videoperformance. Lyon

II° The Instant Zero Theory (2006 - 2013)

Always tirelessly curious and eager to study the world around me, it seemed important for me to break this infernal rhythm of the alienating daily life by coming to insert invitations to put everything on pause, to develop awareness of one-self, of the others, of time and space, through a wide choice of mediums and experiments.

Seeking to outsmart the passive mechanism in the viewer caused by the contemplative characteristics of the video, I came to explore other mediums, while trying to end this unique narrative framework offered to the viewers. Then I called for the total participation of the spectator through his imagination, the starting point of all potentiality, reviving the movement, prolonging the image by giving it life mentally. Art becomes an experience to live, rather than a cultural good to consume.

The concept of Instant Zero is this tiny moment of transition between two acts, this instant concentrating all possibilities, a symbolic pause in our existence offering the time necessary for full self-conquest through becoming aware about the sum of our possible actions.

Potentiality conceals within it all the constituent elements of life. It is in this spirit that this were done in 2006, the "Exhibitions of Potentiality", exhibitions of blank white canvases hang in public places, placed there as receptacle spaces for people who will get lost there through their imagination, projected on the empty space. Art gets rid of its confining and limiting materiality to become its own immaterial perfection: an exchange of energies, such as life itself. The work becomes the home-receptacle for all sensitive and intelligible activity, the gateway to a flight of the imagination, a moment of thought or waking dream deploying all of the conceivable potentials.

In short, this is a series of projects praising life and the act of seizing it, observing it and enjoying it whilst, at the same time, questioning it. It is an incentive, a call for sharing, whilst opening our eyes to better perceive what we no longer see. Art as an experience to be lived.



Instant Zero, 2006. Photography. Lyon



One day of life, 2008. Performance. Lyon



Bedtime story, 2006. Photography. Lyon



Listening to life, 2007. Photography & videoperformance. Lyon



Prise de conscience, 2006. Videoperformance. Lyon

III° Les Correspondances (2006 -)

The intentions and interventions requiring the total participation of the spectator become more and more important in my practice, as for example with “The Mental Network”, a project mixing both interactive & immersive installation with net art, through which the public is invited to respond online (on a website linked to the installation) to the question “What are you thinking about?”.

All thoughts are printed in real time into the minimal installation, consisting of a simple printer installed at height and from where each message received gets printed and then falls on the floor.

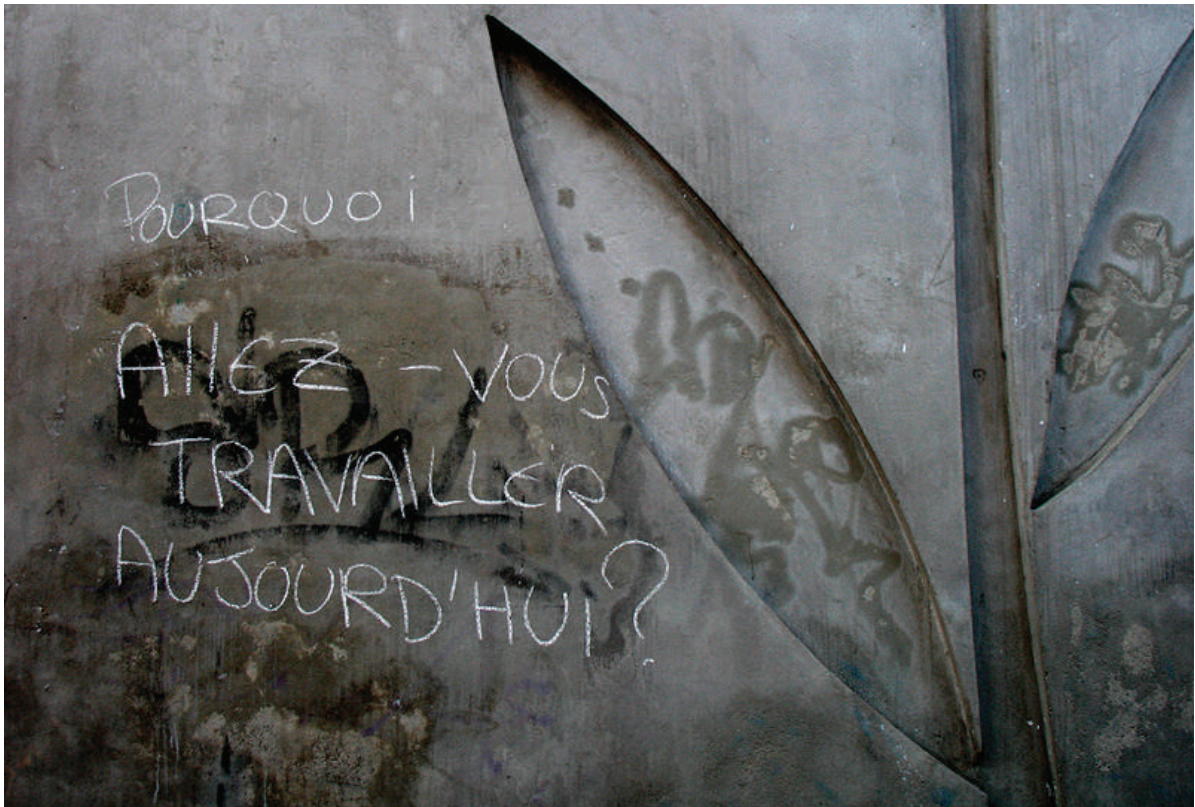
The public is invited to plunge their hands into these thoughts coming from around the world.

“The Messages” dedicated to unknown persons were illustrated through the act of sending messages, poems and other intimate thoughts via non-customary channels: from the symbolic launch of a love letter, folded up as a paper plane, from the rooftop of a skyscraper, to sending messages taped on high-speed trains and propelled to various destinations.

“The Conversations” are an on-going work-in-progress, a vast work of exchanges made with artists, thinkers, professionals from various fields with the aim of developing a fluctuating map of tomorrow’s world that is emerging today. The purpose of this platform where everyone can share knowledge and experiences is to create a melting pot of wisdom, learning, approaches and visions of the world, which address a wide range of subjects and where, first and foremost, human values are privileged. The very first Conversations began when I was 16 years old.

At the end of the day, with this series of Correspondences, it is all a question of perceiving art as a platform for global exchange, reflected by the flow of life and all the interactions that link together everything around us. The global and the local, the microcosm with the macrocosm, everything that dialogues and thrives mutually on each other.

The main intention is not only to become more aware of ourselves and of our own potential, but just to be, here and now. To spread sharing of reflection so that we may live every single experience more fully and more intensely. To create complicity with oneself and with others so that we may caress the web of reality. It is simply a matter of opening our eyes and listening attentively, to receive and perceive the world around us better, whilst being part of these constant movements of the world.



Poems for Hurried Passers-by, 2007. Photography. Saint-Etienne



Conversation with Edgar Morin, 2017. Video. Paris



Nomadic Messages, 2008. Videos, various durations



The Mental Network, 2020. Installation & Netart. Brussels

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“What are you thinking about?”

This simple question can be answered in countless ways, from the lightest to the most intimate thoughts. The answers entered via the website, which is freely accessible, will feed the art installation in real time. Each answer is printed out by the installation and thus ensures a progressive extension thereof. The website will remain accessible until the exhibition ends. The interactive artwork that is being created will be constantly changing, inviting visitors to take a peek into someone else's mind.

IV° The Human Laboratory (2009 -)

The mapping of the human being in its complexity, and more particularly through its identity and behavioral relationships, is one of the major axis of my research. In addition to being articulated around a practice exploring various mediums, this development enters into dialogue with an emerging curatorial activity, not as an echo but rather as an extension of my underlying artistic approach.

The exhibition becomes an evolving proposition, the many specifics of which always allow the establishment of a space for study, meeting and dialogue with artists and the public. The richness of Art offers me the possibility of gradually building an incredible field of experimentation allowing me to make the world my vast laboratory of study about the human being, started through a central question: "Are we all beings suffering from various kinds of needs ? And does that define us as human beings ? Do we spend our whole lives striving endlessly to bridge this gap, to fill our voids ?"

Art changes the world, or at least, art causes a shift in perception, thoughts and situations that lead to enlivening the potentiality for change in the world.

From its cathartic forms to its therapeutic use, I wonder: deep down, isn't art really the medium that people use for all kinds of purposes, such as searching for meaning, for openness, for convening a primal memory material deeply carved within our species? An ancient language that figures as the nodal point for communicating across time and space, across cultures, even the most remote, all over the world? I like to think so.

Art brings people together. It awakens, builds and develops us as human beings with infinite potential.



The Laboratory of Anger Management, 2016. Installation, various dimensions. Palais de Tokyo, Paris



The Primal Scream Therapy, 2018. Videos, various durations. Brussels

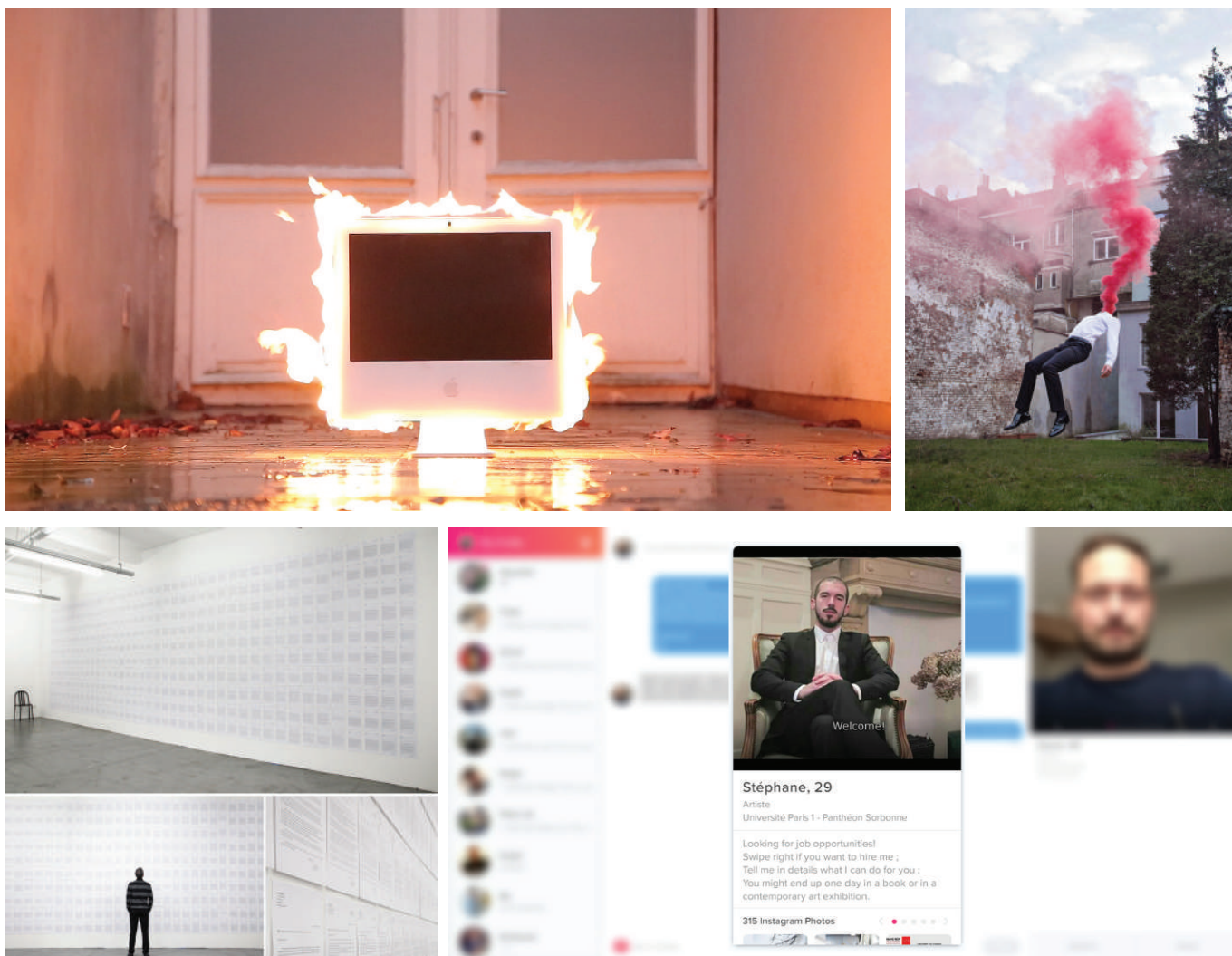
V° The 10 WEEKS Unemployment Residency Program (2018 -)

The day of my return to work after my honeymoon, I was brutally informed of my dismissal, the result of an alleged restructuring project. I therefore decided to transform this delicate experience into an opportunity for research, reflection and artistic action. During the delivery of my 10 weeks notice, I questioned about the situation we go through, as a man, as a citizen and as an artist in this modern society, and more specifically in relation to work.

For 10 weeks, I created & published online day after day new creations and results of my research. Each new day has drawn the progressive construction of a large corpus of projects bringing together all types of mediums (photo, video, painting, installation, sculpture, net art, design, participatory works, embroidery, etc.).

The whole approach addresses many themes and issues related to our relationship to the world of work. From our own identity and behavioral relationship to our relationship with others and with the society we are part of, this project tends to become a global and complex study, fully connected to the tools and contexts of our time.

This performative and spontaneous project, a direct consequence of a precarious and brutal experience, is an extension of my previous work around human complexity, whether in community, in its relationship to otherness or to oneself.



1. DAY 10 : The Computer (from The Burning Memories Series), 2018. Video, various durations. Brussels
2. DAY 31 : Floating in Colored Smoke, 2018. Photography. Brussels
3. DAY 30 : The Wall of Motivations, or the modern madness of integration, 2018. various dimensions (here 10 x 4 m)
4. DAY 28 : Tinder Me - 1 question, 100 answers, 2018. Netart, Brussels



DAYS 3 & 4 : Hire me / Fire me (diptych), 2017. Photography. Brussels



DAY 6 : "Hey!...", 2017. Public interventions, 21 x 29,7cm. Brussels



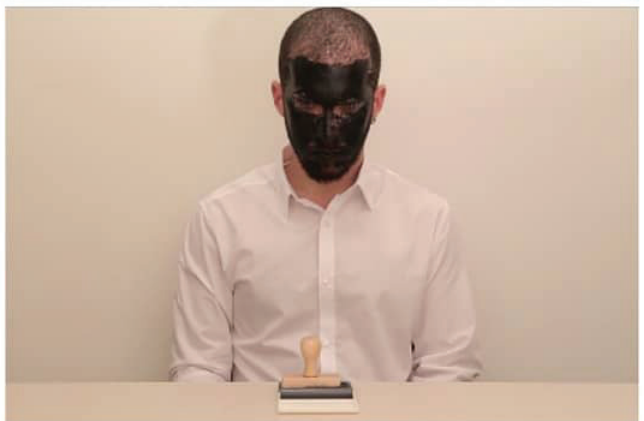
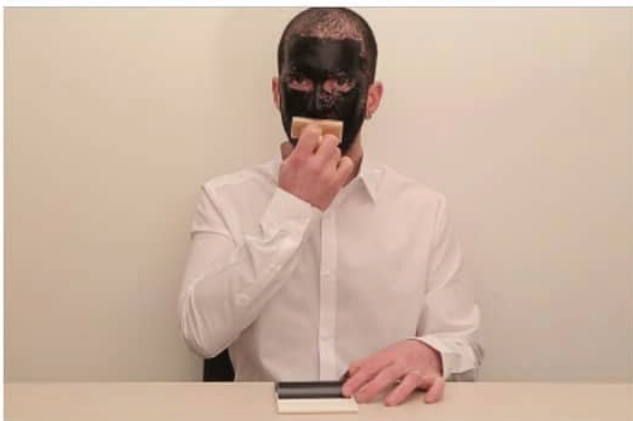
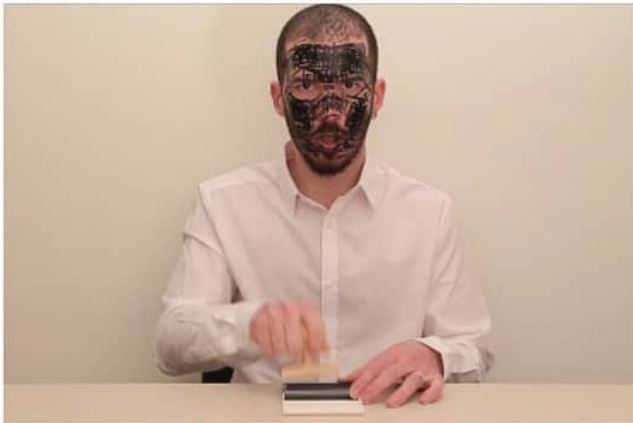
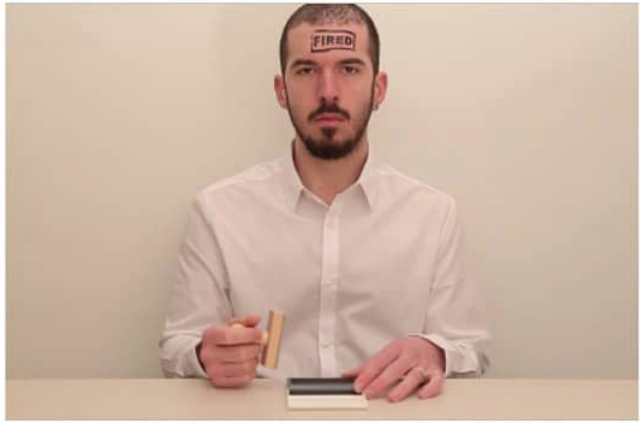
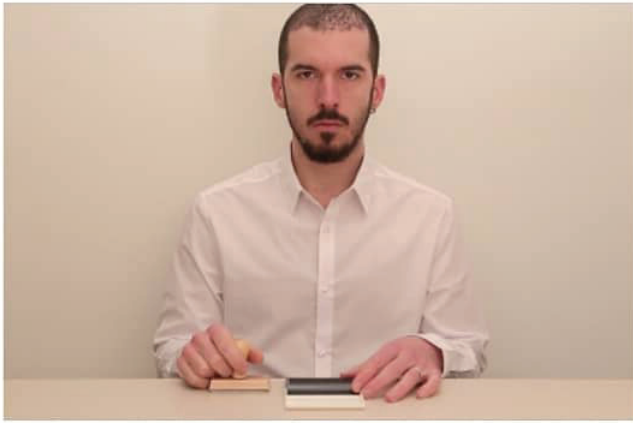
DAY 15 : Keep Smiling (selfportrait), 2017. Photography. Brussels



DAY 37 : Selling Services, 2018. Photography. Brussels



DAY 33 : Studies of Human Perspectives (the middle finger (tribute to Ai Weiwei) ; thumbs up ; stop/high five ; flowers ; gun), 2018. Photography. Brussels



DAY 48 : I need a job, 2018. Videoperformance. Brussels



DAY 36 : The Weight of the World, 2018. Photography. Brussels



DAY 17 : Looking for job, 2017. Photography. Brussels



DAY 32 : Candidature Spontanée, 2018. Photography. Brussels



DAY 35 : The Walk Home, 2018. Videoperformance. Brussels

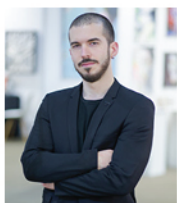


DAY 21 : The Five Stages, 2017. Embroidery on handkerchief. Brussels



DAY 49 : The Funeral Ceremony, 2018. Videoperformance. Museum of Industry & Labor, Brussels





*07/05/1988 - Lyon

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Belgique

Education

Master 2 Arts Plastiques - Université Paris 1 Sorbonne

2010 - 2012

Licence Arts Plastiques - Université Paris 1 Sorbonne

2007 - 2010

Baccalauréat - Lycée Notre-Dame de Bellegarde

2006 - 2007

Currently

Artist

since 1988

Works exhibited in various institutions (ex : Palais de Tokyo, CENTRALE, Donaufestival, ...).

- Series of multidisciplinary plastic works linked to research carried out around human complexity.

Curator

since 2009

Various clients (institutions, events, private clients, etc.).

- Organization of exhibitions, conversations, events, conferences and various projects.

Coordinator

since 2018

Centre Culturel et Sportif Tour à Plomb, City of Brussels

- Organization, management and coordination of the center, the staff and its activities.

Experiences

Coordinator

2016 - 2018

Centre Culturel Omar Khayam, Bruxelles

- Organization, management and coordination of various activities (socio-cultural, artistic and educational).

- Search for subsidies and production of studies, articles, conversations, analyzes, conferences, etc.

- Representation of the institution on a European and international scale (events, congresses, workshops).

Project & communication manager, curator & coordinator

2009 - 2016

Various clients : Galerie Olivier Waltman, Art Fair Brussels, Fotofever, Le Cabinet des Curieux, ...

- Organization, coordination & promotion of various events and projects (exhibitions, conferences, ...).

- Management of art galleries in the context of contemporary art fairs (sales, coordination, logistics).

- Sponsorship, networking and setting up partnerships (BMW, National Lottery, ...).

- Press and communication relations (national, international / paper, web, TV, radio, social networks).

- Development of communication strategies, promotions and community management.

Recent exhibitions (artist)

- The Mental Network (solo show), CENTRALE Box, Brussels, January - March 2020
- Shelter of Art, Halles Saint Géry, Brussels, February 2019
- REVLT!, Espaces Vanderborght, Brussels, Mai - Juin 2018
- Donaufestival, Krems an der Donau, Austria, April - May 2017
- Do Disturb, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, April 2016

Recent exhibitions (curator)

- Roger Ballen, The Theatre of the Ballenesque, CENTRALE, Brussels, November 2019 - March 2020
- FONCTION, Centre Tour à Plomb, Brussels, February 2019
- ROOM #12, Brussels, November - December 2018
- Fake It till you make it, Orangerie, Lyon, October 2018
- Odyssey, Parlement Européen, Brussels

Publications

Various publications (print, digital, tv, radio, articles, interviews, portfolios, covers, etc.) :

Le Monde, Vanity Fair Italy, Elegy, Photo Magazine, Azart Photographie, Joseffine Magazine, Et Alors ?, RTBF, La Première, Canal Street tv, Marquis Magazine, Skin Two Magazine, éditions Taboo, Factice Magazine, Slave Magazine, C-Heads Magazine, Technikart, Mad Movies, Rock One, Tatouage Magazine, Fixe Magazine, ...

Skills

Langages

- French : Mother tongue
- English : Fluent
- Dutch : Basic
- German : Notions

Cultural development

- Curatorial activities & organization of events
- Management, coordination and logistics
- Promotion and communication strategies

Profile

- Creative, passionate & ambitious
- Methodical and rigorous
- Autonomous
- Quick adaptation

Artistic

- Photography, videoperformance, drawing, painting, street art, sculpture, installations, participative art forms, ...
- Research and writing

Exhibitions (Artists)

- 22/01 – 14/03/2020 : Solo show "The Mental Network" @ Centrale Box (Brussels, Belgium)
- 07/02 – 14/03/2019 : Group show "Shelter of Art" @ Halles Saint Géry (Brussels, Belgium)
- 10/05 – 10/06/2018 : Group show "REVLTI" @ Espace Vanderborght (Brussels, Belgium)
- 28/04 – 06/05/2017 : The Laboratory of Anger Management @ Donaufestival (Krems an der Donau, Austria)
- 08 – 10/04/2016 : The Laboratory of Anger Management during "DO DISTURB" @ Palais de Tokyo (Paris, France)
- 12 – 14/02/2016 : Group show "ARTopenKUNST" @ Espace Vanderborght (Brussels, Belgium)
- 02 – 05/04/2015 : Group show @ Espace Saint Bernard (Brussels, Belgium)
- 30/11/13 – 02/02/2014 : Group show "Stereotypes" @ Le Cabinet des Curieux (Paris, France)
- 25/01/2014 : Group show @ the Langage des Viscères (Paris, France)
- 17/05/2013 – 27/06 : Group Show @ In my brain gallery (Lyon, France)
- 23/05 – 05/07 : Group Show "Nouveau Monde" @ Le Cabinet des Curieux (Paris, France)
- 20/04 – 26/05 : Group Show "Tempus Reversum" @ Ukronium 1828 (Lyon, France)
- 04/02 – 05/02 : Group Show + Book signing at the Tattoo Convention (Lyon, France)
- 13/01 – 08/03 : Group Show "Mystères Vaudou" @ Cantada II (Paris, France)
- 07/12/2011 – 28/01/2012 : Group Show "Beautiful People" @ Le Cabinet des Curieux (Paris, France)
- 22/10/2011 – 20/01/2012 : Solo Show + Book signing @ Marquis (Lyon, France)
- 28/10/2011 : Group Show + Book signing @ Langage des Viscères party (Paris, France)
- 17/09/2011 – 21/10/2011 : Solo Show + Book signing @ l'Encre Noire (Aix, France)
- 10/09/2011 : "Prologue : The Psychiatrip" (Ed. Ragage), the first book of Stephane Roy + Book signing @ Le Cabinet des Curieux, for 17th édition of l'Etrange Festival (Paris, France)
- 05/2011 – 09/2011 : Group Show "Underground" @ Le Cabinet des Curieux (Paris, France)
- 05/2011 : Group Show @ Gangurru (Lyon, France)
- 08/2010 – 02/2011 : Group Show @ Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris, France)
- 17/09/2010 : Group Show "Nouvelle Génération" @ Atelier Paul Toupet (Paris, France)
- 30/04 – 15/06 : Exhibition "NO ICON: In Human we trust" @ Cantada II (Paris, France)
- 09/02 – 09/04 : Exhibition @ Sorbonne Paris I St Charles Center (Paris, France)
- 15/10 – 28/11/2009 : Group Show "Venus Robotica" @ Le Cabinet des Curieux (Paris, France)
- 01/09 – 04/10/2009 : Group Show "In Doll we trust" @ l'Art de rien (Paris, France)

Exhibitions & events (Curator)

- 11/12 – 29/12/2019 : Werther Gasperini "De(la)Mesure Humaine" @ Centre Tour à Plomb (Brussels, Belgium)
- 27/11 – 08/12/2019 : Daniele Coppola "Sur le Seuil" (Prix Tour à Plomb 2019) @ Centre Tour à Plomb (Brussels, Belgium)
- 14/11/2019 – 14/03/2020 : Roger Ballen "The Theatre of the Ballenesque" @ CENTRALE for Contemporary Art (Brussels, Belgium)
- 23/10 – 09/11/2019 : Amy Hilton "In Between" @ Centre Tour à Plomb (Brussels, Belgium)
- 20/03 – 30/03/2019 : Group show "FONCTION" @ Centre Tour à Plomb (Brussels, Belgium)
- 01/12 – 31/12/2018 : Céline Cuvelier @ ROOM #12 (Brussels, Belgium)
- 19/11 – 30/11/2018 : Werther Gasperini @ ROOM #12 (Brussels, Belgium)
- 12/11 – 18/11/2018 : Diego Miguel Mirabella @ ROOM #12 (Brussels, Belgium)
- 10/11 – 31/12/2018 : Thibault Carles @ ROOM #12 (Brussels, Belgium)
- 04 – 14/10/2018 : Thibault Carles "Fake it 'til you make it" @ Orangerie (Lyon, France)
- 22 – 26/01/2018 : Ximena Echagüe "Odyssey" @ European Parliament (Brussels, Belgium)
- 01/10 – 31/10/2017 : Conversation Room during "Superdemocracy, the Senate of Things" @ Belgium Senate (Brussels, Belgium)
- 08/06/2017 : Lancement de la plateforme LPDO, @ Galerie Marie Demange (Brussels, Belgium)
- 03/2017 : Young Talents, @ Tour & Taxis (Brussels, Belgium)
- 09/2016 : "L'Odyssée des Libertés" @ Centre Culturel Omar Khayam / Espace 8 (Brussels, Belgium)
- 04/2015 : Group show "The Future is Now", @ Tour & Taxis (Brussels, Belgium)
- 11/2013 : Cédric Arnold "Yantra, sacred ink" @ Galerie Olivier Waltman (Paris, France)
- 23/05 – 05/07 : Group Show "Nouveau Monde" @ Le Cabinet des Curieux (Paris, France)
- 07/12/2011 – 28/01/2012 : Group Show "Beautiful People" @ Le Cabinet des Curieux (Paris, France)
- 05/2011 – 09/2011 : Group Show "Underground" @ Le Cabinet des Curieux (Paris, France)

Thank you for your precious time and attention given to my work.

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