

◀◀ *Transmission* ▶▶

An exhibition at the Centre National d'Art Contemporain
of the Villa Arson in Nice
(March 19 – June 4 2006)
Opening March 18 2006 at 7 pm

The exhibition ◀◀ *Transmission* ▶▶ seeks to examine the way in which certain contemporary artists invent original modes of transmission within their work (or in parallel to it). The objective is to measure how a work of art as such can be considered to be a transmission tool, and consequently, to learn where such a work's transmission coefficient may be situated, as well as its true capacities for communication and its eventual limits.

The exhibition ◀◀ *Transmission* ▶▶ is laid out in three parts. The first is devoted to *Poïpoïdrome* by Robert Filliou and Joachim Pfeufer, an emblematic work conceived by its creators as a hyperstructure dedicated to the transmission of knowledge in the spirit of *Permanent Creation*. "To open up to knowing what we know, but also to know what it is to know, this is the spirit of permanent creation." For this occasion, the *Poïpoïdrome à espace-temps reel prototype 00* will be recreated, accompanied by historical archives and the *Fichier Poïpoïdrome*, which is designed to be enriched over time by comments from the public, who thereby participate in the actual life of the work.

The second part is devoted to the publications collection of the CNEAI (National Center for Prints and Printed Art, Chatou): inserts, books, newspapers, CDs, LPs, postcards, tracts, posters, stickers, sites, e-mails, badges, magazines... Various called ephemera, printed matter or published art, these objects created using mechanical reproduction techniques all have in common the fact that they include within their respective artistic processes all stages of conception, production, distribution, reception and transmission. 400 works selected from the 9000 pieces in the collection will be shown. 15 artists/collectives will be invited to activate their projects. The goal is to test how these publications – which are rarely intended to be shown in a gallery context – will cooperate or resist when placed in this context. Curator: Sylvie Boulanger, director of the CNEAI, assisted by Jerome Grand.

Finally, the third part of ◀◀ *Transmission* ▶▶ is devoted to a solo exhibition by a young British artist, winner of the 2004 Turner Prize, Jeremy Deller. This artist uses various media (film, photography, installation, documents and editions) to ceaselessly study the relations which we weave with subcultures and popular cultures, as well as the impact which they produce on the consciousness (or sub-consciousness) of our society. For the artist this constitutes a profound analysis of the transmission of our collective memory. This project is curated by Christophe Kihm, art critic, co-editor-in-chief of *Art Press* and co-director of the journal *Fresh Théorie*.

At the same time, the Villa Arson and the CNEAI co-edit a special issue of the review

Multitudes devoted to the subject. Without being or appearing to be a catalog of the exhibition, this document can be used for a broader study of the subject while using the content of the exhibition as a starting point. In keeping with the spirit of the review, anthropological, sociological, economic, political and of course artistic analyses will cross paths in order to provide different vantage points for analyzing the various developments in the concepts and forms of transmission in our society, and to measure their impact in the cultural field.

It is for all these reasons that « *Transmission* » was conceived as the first stage in a new cycle of exhibitions designed to create a functional link between the Art Center and the School of the Villa Arson, so that the students may participate in all phases of its conception and development. The aim here is to highlight the very particular status which unites an art center and a school within the walls of a single institution, and thereby the role of transmission which art fulfills in contact with its teaching.

Eric Mangion
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