

PRESS RELEASE

19.01.2017 - 17.03.2017

CARMEN PERRIN

À FORCES

24, RUE DU VIEUX-BILLARD

OPENING ON 19.01 – 18H

« "... instead of the idea gradually becoming clearer, it seems to me, on the contrary, that it is extremely precise from the start. Precise as an idea can be, i.e. not as a form, but as a force exerting pressure. »

Jean-Christophe Bailly, *L'élargissement du poème*, Collection « Détroits », C. Bourgois, 2015.

Art Bärtschi & Cie is pleased to present the exhibition *À Forces*, by Swiss-Bolivian artist **Carmen Perrin**, whose work is exhibited for the third time at the gallery.

Research on force as a necessary element of life will be at the heart of the exhibition. If the physical sciences can give us numerous proofs that a force can exist in an imperceptible way and that it participates in the mechanism of the living, the works of Carmen Perrin suggest other readings to give us a glimpse of this phenomenon. The interaction of one object on another, which manifests itself in cases of pressure, friction, movement or tension, is analysed at the moment when these events occur: when a force can provoke knowledge, intuition and experience. The works presented by the artist are placed at the very moment of the realization of these events, and the spectator is thus invited to question the conditions for the success of his cause.

Carmen Perrin's artistic gesture on the material allows us to see the multiple influences of technique on our sensations and emotions. The role of the materials, their place in the complex system, and the tools necessary for the realization are preserved as a process. For example, the drawings turned, poured, dripped and turned, puddled, keep a trace of the force in action, be it centrifugal or gravity, as an explicit proof of their influence. Force, as the main driving force of creation, is made visible by the trace of its course.

If it shows the conditions in which each work is created, Carmen Perrin's work also allows us to grasp the causes of a certain cognitive state. The way in which the drawings *Tracés FORCES* and *Tracés CORDES* are made thus allow us to grasp a research on the arrangement of the world and reality. The internal relations to the domains of time and matter are signified here by a complex device that is the process of creation. Finally, *Postures* or *Le bruit des yeux* are works that call upon the machine that is the human body, and the permanent tension of the forces that constitute it. Captured at a certain moment when in a continuous movement, the body moves here thanks to the evocation of life force that returns incessantly.

Carmen Perrin (1953) was born in La Paz, Bolivia. She graduated in 1981 from the Geneva School of Fine Arts where she taught from 1989 to 2004. She also worked in Marseille from 1986 to 1996 and in London from 1993 to 1995. The artist then returned to Geneva in 2006. In 2011, she was the winner of the grant for a 6-month stay in Berlin, awarded by the Landys and Gyr Foundation for Culture. She presented her work in a solo exhibition *Entrer dehors sortir dedans*, Maison de l'Amérique Latine, in Paris, accompanied by a publication: "Entrer dehors, sortir dedans". Carmen Perrin won the Leenaards Foundation's Cultural Prize 2015 and is represented in numerous public collections, including the Fonds national d'art contemporain FNAC, the Musée d'art et d'histoire de Genève, and the Banque Julius Bär collection.

For further information: info@bartschi.ch / www.carmenperrin.com