

Frédéric Moser & Philippe Schwinger,

„The pope, the captains, the schoolchildren, all thought they were sitting motionless “

Exhibition from September 12 to October 23, 2021

Opening on September 12, 2021

Open from Monday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm

“... inside this crystal sphere. But now we'll get out of it, we're in full sail. Because the old the old age is past, and this is a new age. For the last hundred years mankind has seemed to be expecting something.”

Did Galileo actually utter these words in 1609, in defiance of the clergy and the monarchy? Or was it Bertolt Brecht who, in response to the rise of Nazism, put the words into the mouth of the great scholar? In fact, after unsuccessful attempts to convince the Church and the State to recognize his discoveries, Galileo finally recanted before the Inquisition. And, in conformity with the law of men, the earth remained flat and motionless at the centre of the universe for another century.

Then the earth began to rotate. We gradually moved away from the centre and became more flexible. Concepts were forged for what had previously been invisible and inaudible. The outline of what might constitute dignity for all was drawn. At the same time, however, a more powerful obsession than that of Catholic doctrine took hold of people's minds. And today we find ourselves once again formulating the questions that tormented Galileo:

What is this obstinate attachment to blind perseverance?
Where does this devouring passion for denial come from?
Why this tenacious will for avoidance?

We have opened up the whole spectrum of formal registers. In the objects of the present, the symbolic investments of the past are actualised. Branding and social ranking sits side by side with nameless vulnerability.

Like islands in the exhibition space, two fictional films: one designed for a deserted area where a trapping process happens simultaneously to two isolated individuals, the other is an attempt to «get across the scree» while lacking an enlightened leader. We have added textile sculptures, paintings and photographs to these broken narratives, like a scene diffracted into a thousand fragments. With the aim of occupying the space in between, of tracking down changes of tone as a means of understanding the irreparable.

Imagining a world - on the scale of the gallery - with two floors separated by folds that are carried over on each side. Folds, hems, material textures. And here, "the soul assigns itself a pain that delivers to its consciousness a series of minute perceptions that it had almost failed to remark because they were first buried in its depths." (G. Deleuze)

In plain sight: that which exceeds the clear zone. And, jostled by the heteronomy of suggested origins and narratives, we make a vow to grasp, because one way or another, «before the spark reaches the dynamite the lighted fuse must be cut.» (Walter Benjamin)

Frédéric Moser & Philippe Schwinger, August 2021

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION



«Les éclats volent de partout», Discussion with Frédéric Moser and Philippe Schwinger about their exhibition.

On the occasion of the exhibition, Clara Schulmann interviewed the artists. Please listen to it on our soundcloud platform. Flash this code.

Recorded in September 2021, in French

Clara Schulmann is a writer and art critic based in Paris. She teaches at the Beaux-arts de Paris. Her last book, *Zizanies*, was published in 2020 by Paraguay Press.