

SI

Work Hard: Selections by Valentin Carron March 4 – May 24, 2015



“Work Hard,” the graffiti message enhancing this Lausanne public sculpture from 1945 by Pierre Blanc is the title of Swiss Institute’s latest exhibition and curatorial debut of celebrated artist Valentin Carron. Carron, who represented Switzerland at the 2013 Venice Biennale, selects an exceptional range of seminal artworks combining his key homegrown influences and inspiring contemporaries.

In a display of idiosyncratic experience, this exhibition presents a creative discourse between artworks through Carron’s perspective, revealing shared concerns and principles of his native country’s art. His focus on the poetics of vernacular invokes a quirky Swiss-ness while conjuring mythologies of labor. Furthermore, this exhibition sheds light on the aesthetic universe of Carron, providing foundations for his visual and conceptual vocabulary and allowing insight into a practice that combines strategies of appropriation with sculptural bravado.

Through an individual lens, *Work Hard* suggests an imaginary time and place in art history as past, present and future converge in a narrative of national identity and art production.

Participating artists include Edmond Bille, Vittorio Brodmann, Marguerite Burnat-Provins, Luciano Castelli, Claudia Comte, Sylvain Croci-Torti, Latifa Echakhch, Frédéric Gabioud, Mathis Gasser, Fabrice Gygi, Andreas Hochuli, Trix and Robert Haussmann, David Hominal, Bernhard Luginbühl, Urs Lüthi, Fabian Marti, Méret Oppenheim, Simon Paccaud, Mai-Thu Perret, Ugo Rondinone, Denis Savary, Daniel Spoerri, and Jean Tinguely.

About Valentin Carron

Valentin Carron lives and works in Martigny, Switzerland, where he was born in 1977. In 2013 he represented Switzerland at the 55th Venice Biennale. Major presentations of his works were realized at Kunsthalle Bern (2014), Palais de Tokyo Paris (2010), Kunsthalle Zürich (2007), Swiss Institute New York (2006), Centre d'Art Contemporain Geneva (2004), Chisenhale Gallery London (2006) and Mamco Geneva (2001). Catalogues were published on the occasion of Carron's exhibition at the Swiss Pavilion 55th International Venice Biennale (JRP/Ringier) and his recent solo exhibition at Kunsthalle Bern. A monograph of the artist's work was published by JRP/Ringier in 2011.

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