

BÉTONSALON —
CENTRE D'ART
ET DE RECHERCHE

ÉTABLISSEMENT CULTUREL DE
LA VILLE DE PARIS
PERNOD RICARD FELLOWSHIP

VILLA VASSILIEFF

PRESS RELEASE

CANDICE LIN

A HARD WHITE BODY

From September 6 to December 23, 2017
at Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research, Paris

Opening on Tuesday, September 5

From 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. (press), from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (general public)

Curated by Lotte Arndt and Lucas Morin



Candice Lin, detail from *A Hard White Body*, porcelain, 2017. Courtesy the artist

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A HARD WHITE BODY

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Curated by Lotte Arndt and Lucas Morin

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Opening on September 5, 2017, 6-9 p.m.

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is happy to announce Candice Lin's first solo exhibition in France.

With *A Hard White Body*, Candice Lin weaves together two stories that do not seem to allow for an obvious connection. At first glance, the black American writer and social critic James Baldwin (1924–1987), and Jeanne Baret (1740–1807), French botanist and first woman to have sailed around the globe, appear to share only their initials. Lin unites these two characters who, despite two centuries of distance, lived out desires that were allowed through displacement from their native lands. They navigated queer and racialized gender presentations that were projected upon them and that at times they embraced.

In her installation, Candice Lin produces a bedroom made of unfired porcelain, inspired by James Baldwin's novel *Giovanni's Room*, that she moistens with a distillation of piss, water from the Seine and medicinal plants perhaps used by Jeanne Baret. Porcelain, this hard white body, evokes purity, whiteness and resistance to cracking or staining. An Orientalist object of desire, it was later used as a bacteriological filter.

Lin mixes porcelain and pungent liquids, invoking histories of exoticism, virology and global trade, and raising the question of a racialized language. She stages processes of contamination between organic and inorganic materials, creating an unstable sculptural ecosystem that requires constant caretaking. Visitors are invited to physically participate.

Candice Lin's exhibition is completed by a series of public programs designed by Lotte Arndt in collaboration with Temporary Gallery, Cologne. They are sponsored by Perspektive - Fund for Contemporary Art and Architecture, a program initiated by the Bureau for Visual Arts of the Institut français Germany.

The exhibition and its public programs are taking place in the context of the 30th anniversary of the death of James Baldwin (1924–1987).

***A Hard White Body* is produced in collaboration with Portikus, Frankfurt/Main.**

ABOUT CANDICE LIN

Candice Lin received her MFA in New Genres at the San Francisco Art Institute and her double BA in Visual Arts and Art Semiotics at Brown University. Her work engages notions of gender, race and sexuality, drawing from scientific theories, anthropology and queer theory. Lin's work has been recently exhibited at Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, LAXART, Kadist Art Foundation (Paris), the Delfina Foundation (London), and Akuna Zentroa/Alhondiga (Bilbao), with recent solo exhibitions at Gasworks (London) and Commonwealth and Council (Los Angeles). She is represented by Ghebaly Gallery in Los Angeles and Quadrado Azul in Porto. She lives and works in Los Angeles.



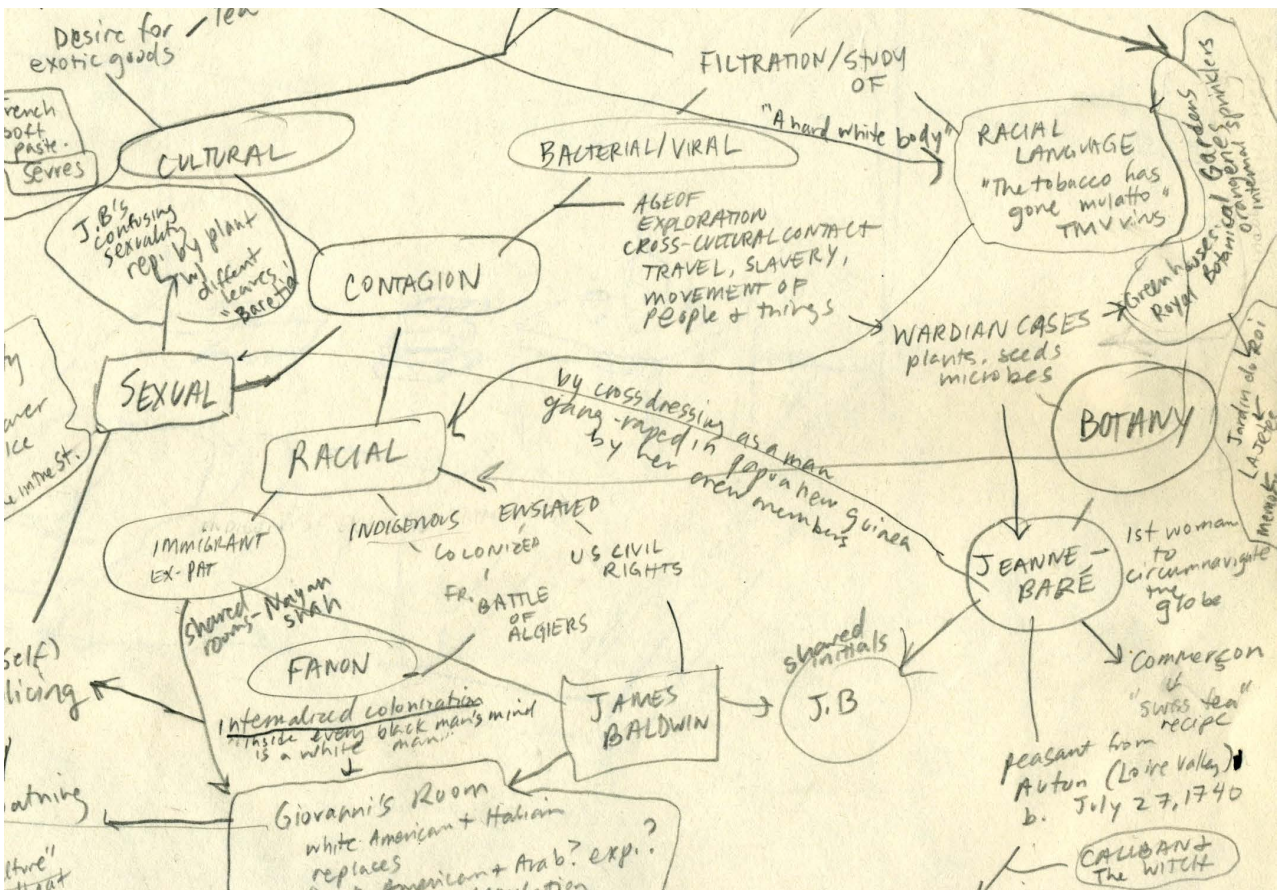
Candice Lin, detail from *A Hard White Body*, porcelain, 2017. Courtesy the artist



Candice Lin, detail from *A Hard White Body*, 2017. Courtesy the artist



Candice Lin working on Commerson's rotting foot for *A Hard White Body*, 2017. Courtesy the artist



Candice Lin, research sketch for *A Hard White Body*, 2017. Courtesy the artist

BÉTONSALON - CENTER FOR ART AND RESEARCH & VILLA VASSILIEFF

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research offers a space of collective reflection that combines both artistic and academic practices, and questions the production and dissemination of knowledge. We develop our activities in a process-based, collaborative, and discursive manner, following different time spans, in cooperation with various local, national, and international organizations. Exhibitions are enriched by different associated events (workshops, conferences, performances, round table discussions...). We organize seminars and workshops in collaboration with faculty members from the Paris Diderot University. We lead off-site research projects in partnership with other institutions, and offer residency programs for researchers, artists, and curators.

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is a non-profit organization established in Paris in 2003. Since 2007, Bétonsalon has been located on the campus of the Paris Diderot University. In 2016, we launched the Académie Vivante (Living Academy) program, an experimental research laboratory within the Epigenetics and Cell Fate unit (CNRS / Université Paris Diderot) that invites artists in residency. This same year, we launched Villa Vassilieff, our second site of activities, in the former studio of artist Marie Vassilieff, located in the heart of the Montparnasse neighborhood. Until 2013, this location was the Museum of Montparnasse. Villa Vassilieff is a cultural establishment of the City of Paris.

Villa Vassilieff intends to reconnect with the history of its location by inviting artists and researchers to take a contemporary look at the heritage of Montparnasse. Our exhibitions and public programs focus on exploring lesser-known resources and aim at re-writing and diversifying historical art narratives. Among many grant and residency opportunities, we joined forces with our leading sponsor Pernod Ricard to create the Pernod Ricard Fellowship, a residency program inviting four international artists, curators, or researchers every year in the Villa's studio. We collaborate closely with museums and curators to design tailor-made research projects and bring innovative perspectives, as illustrated by the ongoing Marc Vaux program jointly led by Villa Vassilieff and Centre Pompidou's Kandinsky Library.

ABOUT LOTTE ARNDT

Lotte Arndt teaches at the art school l'École d'art et design de Valence since 2014. In 2013, she finished her PhD dealing with Paris based cultural magazines referring to Africa (Paris, Berlin), and worked as researcher in residency at the art school l'École supérieure d'art de Clermont Métropole. In 2016, she was a Goethe Fellow at Villa Vassilieff, was a guest theorist at ESADTPM Toulon, and was the guest editor of the online journal *Qalqalah* (2017). She coordinated the artistic research project "Karawane" that accompanied the making of the Belgian pavilion of Vincent Meessen and Katerina Gregos at the Venice Biennale 2015. Lotte is part of the artists and researcher group "Ruser l'image"; publishes regularly on topics regarding the postcolonial present and artistic strategies in pursuit of subverting Eurocentric institutions and narratives. Recent publications include *Crawling Doubles. Colonial Collecting and Affect* (with Mathieu K. Abonnenc and Catalina Lozano), Paris, B42, 2016; *Hunting & Collecting. Sammy Baloji* (with Asger Taiaksev), Brussels, Paris, MuZEE and Imane Farès, 2016 and *Les revues font la culture ! Négociations postcoloniales dans les périodiques parisiens relatifs à l'Afrique (1947-2012)*, WVT, 2016.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The public programs of the exhibition *A Hard White Body* were conceived by Lotte Arndt in collaboration with Temporary Gallery, Cologne. They are part of a series of events entitled *Disturbing Objects, Disquiet Objects. Going Beyond Classificatory Certainties* taking place over both locations between September and December 2017.

At Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research, Paris

Saturday, September 9, 3 p.m. - *Precarious Homes*
with Jamika Ajalon, Candice Lin, Aykan Safoğlu, screening of *Off-White Tulips* (2013) by Aykan Safoğlu (a film selected by Clara López Menéndez)

Saturday, October 21, 3 p.m. - *Bathing in Contagious Liquids*
with Élisabeth Lebovici, Clara López Menéndez, Petra Van Brabandt, screening of *Maldito sea tu nombre libertad* (1994) by Vladimir Ceballos (a film selected by Clara López Menéndez)

Saturday, December 2, 3 p.m. - *Stowaways*
with Teresa Castro

At Temporary Gallery, Cologne

Friday, October 13, 7 p.m. - *Matter in Process: Erasures and Resurgences*
with Mathieu K. Abonnenc, Susanne Leeb

Friday, November 3, 7 p.m. - *Grenzgängerinnen. Über Wucherungen und Sammlungen in Aufruhr*
with Pauline M'barek, Tahani Nadim, Kerstin Stoll

Disturbing Objects, Disquiet Objects. Going Beyond Classificatory Certainties is sponsored by Perspektive - Fund for Contemporary Art and Architecture, a program initiated by the Bureau for Visual Arts of the Institut français (Germany).

ACADÉMIE VIVANTE

The Académie vivante (Living Academy) program is an experimental research laboratory established in 2016 within the Epigenetics and Cell Fate unit (CNRS / Paris Diderot University), in collaboration with Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research.

Every semester, the Académie vivante (Living Academy) invites international artists to work in the laboratory on a specific research topic. Artists gain privileged access to lab resources and lead an experimental program designed for researchers, students, and the general public. They also contribute to ongoing exhibitions at Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research and take part in the art center's public programs.

For the fourth Académie vivante, Julie Ramage (Professor of Literature at the Paris Diderot University) will be invited to collaborate with the participating artists. Artist Laura Huertas Millán will direct the research and creation program, while artist Ali Cherri will lead a week-long intensive workshop. Lotte Arndt, co-curator of the exhibition *A Hard White Body*, will conceive a series of public events in collaboration with Temporary Gallery, Cologne.

Académie vivante is sponsored by the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation.

EXHIBITION PARTNERS

PORTIKUS, FRANKFURT/MAIN, GERMANY

A Hard White Body is produced in collaboration with Portikus, Frankfurt/Main, where Candice Lin's exhibition will open on February 10, 2018.

Portikus is an institution for contemporary art in Frankfurt am Main. Since its foundation in 1987 and as a fundamental element of the renowned art academy Städelschule, Portikus is dedicated to exhibit, publish and discuss young and emerging as well as established artists and their work.

TEMPORARY GALLERY, COLOGNE, GERMANY

Temporary Gallery was founded in 2008/09 as a non-profit art association (Kunstverein) and was honoured by the City of Cologne as Centre for contemporary art in 2014. Besides its extensive programme of exhibitions and events on developments in current contemporary art practice and theory, it offers consultation for local artists and curators. Its exhibitions focus on young, up-and-coming as well as established German and international artists, providing a venue for the exchange of ideas and the production of new works. The thematic group exhibitions and events, to which guest curators and scholars/academics are regularly invited, are discourse-oriented. They open up interdisciplinary ties by systematically questioning the relationship of art and its present.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is supported by the City of Paris, the Paris Diderot University - Paris 7, the Île-de-France Regional Board of Cultural Affairs - Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Île-de-France Region and Leroy Merlin - Quai d'Ivry.

Académie vivante is sponsored by the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation.

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is a member of Tram, réseau art contemporain Paris / Île-de-France and of d.c.a / association française de développement des centres d'art.

Villa Vassilieff receives support from public and private partners first and foremost from the City of Paris, the Île-de-France Region and Pernod Ricard, its lead sponsor. Villa Vassilieff also develops partnerships with the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques, the Société des Auteurs dans les Arts Graphiques et Plastiques, the Collège d'études mondiales of the Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme, and the Goethe Institut.



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FREE OF CHARGE

Tuesday to Saturday / 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

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