

GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA

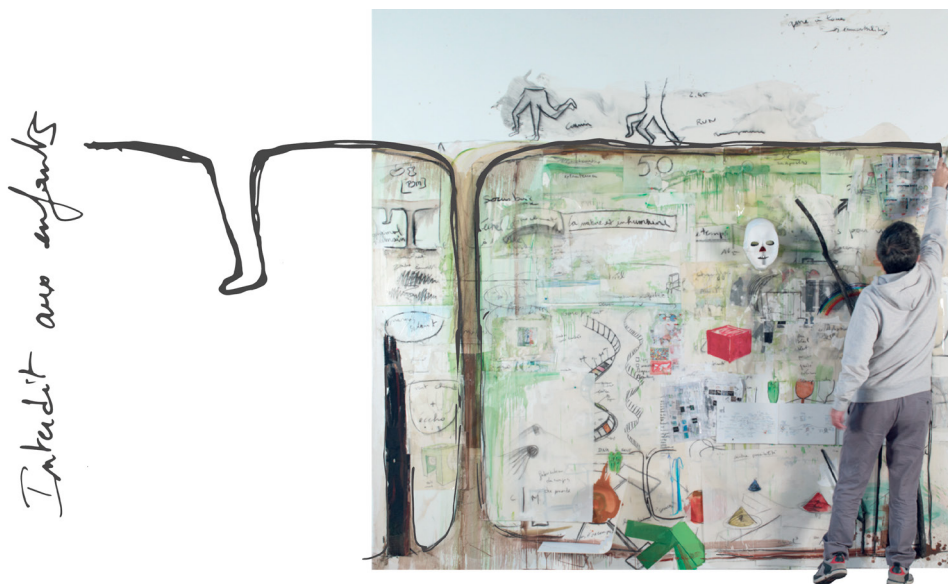
PARIS - BRUXELLES

Fabrice Hyber

Interdit aux enfants

March 14 - May 13, 2014

18, rue du Bourg - Tibourg - 75004 Paris



Peinture homéopathique n°30, 2012 © Fabrice Hyber / ADAGP, 2014

For his first exhibition at the Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Fabrice Hyber is staging *Interdit aux enfants* (Children Not Allowed), a somewhat provocative invitation to enter the world of childhood, something he visualizes as a creative attitude in the face of the world rather than as a journey mapped out in advance like a stage of life.

Presented in three parts – the index, the playground, the screen – the exhibition will offer visitors a playful cross-section of his different modes of expression – drawings, POFS (*Prototypes d'Objets en Fonctionnement*) and *Homeopathic Paintings* – in keeping with his most recent offerings at the Lyon Biennial, the Palais du Tokyo, the MAC VAL, and the Fondation Maeght in 2013.

The gallery entrance will operate as an index: drawings have been hung on a wall announcing the themes developed inside in rhizomatic and fragmentary fashion. A catalogue of forms-logos retraces a part of Fabrice Hyber's personal universe. Similar to a school notice board characterized by an abundance of miscellaneous messages and signs, the exhibition too is suggestive of the exhilarating children's activity in which everything that comes to mind is recorded graphically in a totally non-sequential fashion. For Hyber it is a question of "telling a story using all means available without preferring any one form of support over another".

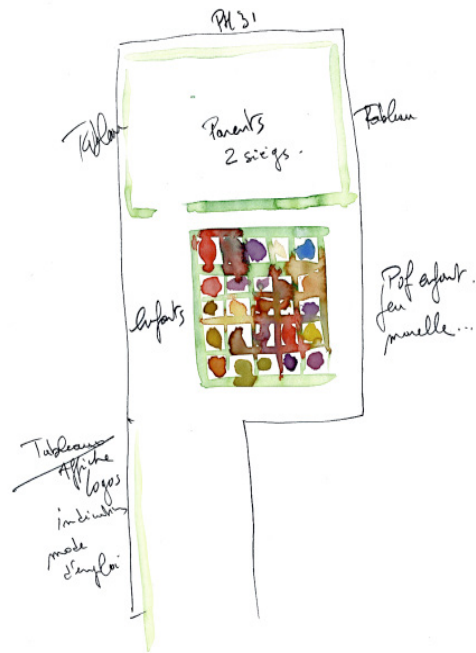
Constituting the nucleus of the exhibition, the playground gives access to fifty or so POFS adapted for children; these are variations of the famous *Prototypes d'Objets en Fonctionnement*, which Fabrice Hyber has been producing since 1991, in new versions created specifically for the exhibition. *Hommes de Bessines* made from Lego pieces, mini *Ted Hybers*, mini endless staircases, blue and pink square footballs, twin masks.... Pushing boundaries, the POFs ask us to redefine our behaviour. These "forbidden" objects, which have been disengaged from their original functions, demand new rules for their usage and, in so doing, turn us back into children.

A wall built in the middle of the gallery provides a transition to a contemplative space, where Fabrice Hyber presents one of his most recent homeopathic paintings.

The artist has produced his *Homeopathic paintings* at a rate of approximately one a year since 1986. They embody and put into perspective the questions that Hyber asks of a particular period. A fragmented series of drawings, notes, graphs and objects are telescoped together and coated in epoxy resin, thus becoming easier for viewers to "digest". After all, it is only in small doses – and thus the name

“homeopathic” – that these works can be appreciated.

The counterpart of a tangible, material children’s universe, this two-dimensional world functions, in a virtual manner, like a screen, in tandem with the imagination of the visitor, who is able to investigate the accumulation of images in the work: sketches of stomachs and of the *Prototype de Paradis* shown at the Lyon Biennial, images of primates, etc., all freely associated. Reflecting on the scale of his works, Hyber has strongly marked them with the presence of his body, not painting any higher than the level of his raised arm. Invested with autobiographical elements, this large format painting was also inspired by Hyber’s collaboration with researchers at the Institut Pasteur, for which the artist produced a monumental fresco with the title *Sans gêne* in 2012.



As is often the case in Hyber’s work, the exhibition *Interdit aux enfants* allows visitors different registers of interpretation. With this paradoxical title, he grasped the opportunity to “show parents that he is nothing but a big child”. He was also interested in showing our fascination with artworks, which we are usually “forbidden” to touch yet are however very often “adult toys”.



Deemed one of the most important artists of his generation, Fabrice Hyber generates a protean, original body of work that never ceases to surprise.

A scientist by training, Hyber produces ambitious, inventive work that he thinks of as “a giant rhizome that expands in accordance with the echo principle”. He offers a labyrinth of works inspired by hybrid organic systems, convoluted accumulations, or proliferating mutations that provide a few points of reference in a formally uncategorizable production that meanders between painting, installations, sculpture and drawing.

Born in the Vendée in 1961, Fabrice Hyber lives and works in Paris. Since the start of his career in the 1980s, he became one of the youngest winners of the Golden Lion at the 1997 Venice Biennale and has since enjoyed increasing attention on the international scene. He has shown in many leading institutions in France and abroad, and his work has been presented at important international events for more than twenty years.

In 2013 he had an important solo exhibition, *Matières Premières*, at the Palais de Tokyo on Paris, which enjoyed broad public and critical success, *Essentiel* at the Fondation Maeght, where he presented homeopathic paintings in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, and *Prototypes d’Objets en Fonctionnement (POF)* at the MAC/VAL in Vitry. And he produced the monumental fresco *Sans Gêne* on ceramic tiles commissioned from him by the Institut Pasteur, that was inaugurated in October 2012. Fabrice Hyber participated in the Lyon Biennial in 2013.

Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Bourg-Tibourg

Fabrice Hyber
Interdit aux enfants
14 March - 13 May 2014
Opening on March 14

Xu Zhen by Madeln Company
24 May - 25 July 2014
Opening on May 24

Mickalene Thomas
11 September - October 2014
Opening on September 11

Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Cloître Saint-Merri

Agnès Varda
Triptyques atypiques
8 February - 5 April 2014

Manuel Ocampo
Notes from the Ste. Anne Asylum
12 April - 31 May 2014
Opening on April 12

Laure Prouvost
18 September - October 2014

Luc Delahaye
November - December 2014

Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Bruxelles

Andres Serrano
Triptyques
13 March - 17 April 2014
Opening on March 13

Valérie Belin
22 April - 21 June 2014
Opening on April 22

Sophie Kujiken
26 June - 2 August 2014
Opening on June 26

For further informations, please contact Maimiti Cazalis
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