



A table made again for the first time

Juan de la Cosa/John of the Thing

9 – 12 September 2018

Bureau des Réalités is pleased to present Juan de la Cosa/John of the Thing, a Mexico City and London-based publisher run by artists Tania Pérez Córdova and Francesco Pedraglio. The project focuses on commissioning, republishing and distributing works of fiction and poetry by writers and artists alike. With bilingual editions (English/Spanish) and a specific focus on translation, Juan de la Cosa/John of the Thing explores the line separating literary works and the experimental writings put forward by visual artists. Its main goal is to publish authors who propose new and ambiguous spaces for fiction, testing the limits of narrative and poetic writings.

For Bureau des Réalités, Juan de la Cosa/John of the Thing present *A table made again for the first time*, a project structured around three events focusing on the idea of translation, both on the written page and in the exhibition space. From its canonical definition as a journey from one language to another to its metaphorical reading as a link between mediums, all the way to its sociological interpretation as a lens capable of displaying the hidden mechanisms of a culture, translation seems to be in a moment of some fervour. As such, and through the work of the invited artists and writers, *A table made again for the first time* aims at opening a space for further discussion on and around the topics of what a translation could be and might do.

Sunday 9 September, 5pm, Bureau des Réalités

Spoken Word Gallery with **Marie Lund**

Without physical objects or images, the Spoken Word Gallery presents a programme of exhibitions made entirely by spoken language. Neither simple performance nor straight lecture, each intervention will be thought of as an exhibition in its own right; an exhibition where the actual 'telling' becomes the artworks.

Within Bureau des Réalités space, Marie Lund will present the third exhibition in the series.

Tuesday 11 September, 6 pm, La Loge

Screening of *24 Portraits* by **Alain Cavalier**

In cooperation with La Loge, Juan de la Cosa/John of the Thing and Bureau des Réalités screen and discuss a selection of Alain Cavalier's short documentaries *24 Portraits* (1987/1991). A series of sketches about handwork trades and vernacular traditions, the portraits examine women's labour, focusing in particular on rare and disappearing crafts and traditions on the brink of being forgotten. Via the documentary medium, Cavalier observes the tools, the hands and the environment of those women asking questions while minutely and delicately observing their work, somehow proposing an odd balance between manual labor, speech and image making.

Wednesday 12 September, 6pm, Bureau des Réalités

Reading by artist **Jesper List Thomsen** followed by a reading and a discussion with the writer and translator **Kate Briggs**

Published in English and Spanish, *BASE BASE* is the first book-length collection of texts by Danish artist Jesper List Thomsen, as well as the third title in Juan de la Cosa / John of the Thing editorial activity.

An essay that is also a novel and a new form of memoir, Kate Briggs' *This Little Art* is a multi-layered and sophisticated book that interrogates and ultimately celebrates the delights and complexities of reading, writing and living with/through translations. Starting from her experience of translating Roland Barthes's lecture notes, Kate threads numerous stories together to produce a portrait of her craft as an intensely relational activity. A recurrent image in the book: Robinson Crusoe's effort to "make a table for himself again for the first time".

Tania Pérez Córdova is an artist based in Mexico City, where she also co-directs the publishing project Juan de la Cosa/John of the Thing.

Recent exhibition include: Daylength of a room, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (2018, upcoming), Smoke, Nearby, MCA Chicago (2017); Ayrton, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City (MX); Handhold, Galerie Martin Janda, Vienna (AT); A rock that keeps tigers away, Kunstverein München, München (DE); The Eighth Climate (What Does Art Do?), Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju (KR); 2015 Triennial: Surround audience, New Museum, New York (US); Mercosul Biennial, Porto Alegre (BR).

Francesco Pedraglio is an artist and writer based Mexico City, where he also co-directs the publishing project Juan de la Cosa/John of the Thing. His work has been shown and performed at Museo Leonora Carrington, San Luis Potosí (2018); Norma Mangione Gallery, Turin (2017); P///AKT, Amsterdam (2017); Kunstverein Munich (2017); CRAC Alsace (2017); Kunsthalle Wien (2015). A collection of poems titled 99 Battle and 1 War (an extract) was published in October 2016 (Piano Nobile, Genevve). His novel A man in a room spray painting a fly was published by Book Works (London) in summer 2014.

Marie Lund is a Danish artist living and working in London. Recent solo exhibitions include Face to Back, Croy Nielsen, Vienna; Grip, Jose Garcia, mx, Mexico City; Legumes, Holstebro Kunstmuseum; Scout at Jose Garcia, mx, Merida; PIT at Croy Nielsen, Berlin; Flush at Badischer Kunstverein; Dip at Laura Bartlett, London; Drums, Museo Marino Marini, Florence. Her work has been featured in exhibitions at Palais de Tokyo, Tate Britain, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Extra City, Kunstmuseum Krefeld, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Cologne Kunstverein, Kunsthalle Mulhouse, De Vleeshal Middelburg, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, The Swiss Institute, CCA Wattis amongst others.

Alain Cavalier is a writer and director who worked in the tradition of auteur cinema before experimenting with genres and developing a highly personal and unconventional style. Amongst his films, *Le Combat dans l'île* (1962), *L'Insoumis* (1964), *La Chamade* (1965), *Thérèse* (1986), *Un étrange voyage* (1981) and *Libera me* (1993). He won several awards, including the César Award for Best Film and César Award for Best Director for his film *Thérèse* (1987). His film *Pa-ter* premiered at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival.

Jesper List Thomsen is a Danish artist and writer based in London and Athens. Recent performances and exhibitions include *Hollis and Money*, ICA, London/ Künstlerhaus, Stuttgart; *Speak Through You*, Hot Wheels Projects, Athens; *A Social Body Event*, Serpentine Gallery, London; *Micro-Composition*, Rozenstraat, Amsterdam; *The body, the body, the tongue*, Reading International; *Hand and Mind*, Grand Union, Birmingham; *The boys the girls and the political*, Lisson Gallery, London; *One Hour Exhibition*, South London Gallery, London. He is also a part of the artist collective Am Nuden Da.

Kate Briggs is a writer and translator based in Rotterdam. She is the translator of two volumes of lecture and seminar notes by Roland Barthes (Columbia University Press, 2011 and 2013). Further publications include: *Exercise in Pathetic Criticism* (Information as Material, 2011), *On Reading as an Alternation of Flights and Perchings* (NO Press, 2013) and *The Nabokov Paper* (Information as Material, 2013). *This Little Art* was published by Fitzcarraldo Editions in September 2017.

ill: Alain Cavalier, videostill, "La Trempeuse", *24 Portraits* (1987/1991)

Thanks to all the artists and writers, Camera One, Paris, Etablissement d'en Face, Brussels, Galerie Greta Meert, Brussels, La Loge, Brussels, VGC, Brussels