



PRESS RELEASE

The Garden of Paradox

Glance at the “Cirque Divers” in Liège

16th February – 16th August 2018 at the Museum of Walloon Life (Liège)

The Province of Liège is nowadays the depositary of the “Cirque Divers” heritage, of its collection and of its archives. In the 80s and 90s, the Cirque Divers was a place of cultural and artistic production in the Outremeuse (En Roture) district, the heart of the history of Liège, that consisted of a bar, a gallery and the newsroom of a newspaper that welcomed over the years hundreds of artists, musicians, journalists and activists. The exhibition “The Garden of Paradox - Glance at the “Cirque Divers” in Liège”, which will take place from February to August 2018 at the Museum of Walloon Life in Liège, is the opportunity to highlight and question this unique heritage, mirror of two decades of societal life. The exhibition will be peppered with meetings, seminars, conferences, performances, parties, workshops, concerts, processions and debates. A catalogue published by Yellow Now will accompany the exhibition.

The “Cirque Divers” (Liège) was born in 1977 and finally died in 1999. It was a place of Paradox and of universal Lie: open, activist, experimental and anti-establishment. It was a unique experience in the area of art and culture or counterculture, a great and joyful hurly-burly, rowdy and inopportune, and of course always “Of a certain cheerfulness”.

Born from a will of theatricalizing everything and, in a very situationist spirit, of “spectacularising” down to our daily activities, it was Fluxus in its own way, it invested the field of performances, adopted a Panic spirit, practised a very pataphysic style and promoted the minor arts in a major way. The funnel of the “Cirque Divers” absorbed, concentrated and discussed the ideas of the moment, multiplied the fields of activity, goaded the authorities. As a real hydropathic cabaret where up to hundred different beers were served, festive and wacko, it was concerned about creation in all areas – visual arts, music, performing arts, literature and poetry – as well as about lifelong learning, defining its attitudes in a very rare way.

Participating artists:

ORLAN

Pierre Alechinsky

Michel Antaki

Laurie Anderson

Fernando Arrabal

Glen Baxter

Silvana Belletti

BEN Vautier

Jan Bucquoy

Jacques Charlier

Hervé Di Rosa

Robert Filliou

Jacques Lennep

Jacques Lizène,

Capitaine Lonchamps

Marcel Mariën

Pol Pierart

André Stas

Lydia Schouten

Daniel Spoerri

Roland Topor

Geneviève Van der Wielen

Denyse Willem

Pictures :

- The funnel of the "Cirque Divers", the one of a sane madness, 1977. Collection Province of Liège.

- Drinkend Hert bij Avondscherming – The roe deer drinking at dusk, the royal couple, 1977-78. Mixed technique, 145 x 254 cm. Collection Province of Liège.

Practical informations

From February 17th to August 16th 2018

Place

Musée de la Vie Wallonne (Liège)

Rue des Mineurs - B-4000 Liège

04 279 20 31

Curator of the exhibition

Jean-Michel Botquin : info@nadjavilienne.com

Press contact

France Lefèvre – La Province : France.lefebvre@provincedeliege.be

04 232 87 22 – 0475 94 92 80

Hélène van den Wildenberg - CaracasCOM

www.caracascom.com, info@caracascom.com

T +32 (0)2 560 21 22 - GSM +32 (0)495 22 07 92