

Parliament

ART BRUSSELS 2023

Flaviu Cacoveanu et Guillaume Valenti

20-23 April 2023

Booth 6C-32

For its first participation in the Art Brussels fair, Parliament is pleased to present a duo-show featuring artists Flaviu Cacoveanu and Guillaume Valenti. This presentation reflects the gallery's ongoing explorations since its opening.

The opening of the Parliament Gallery is taking place in a context of health crisis, and more broadly in a context marked by numerous global upheavals of an ideological and social nature characteristic of the advent of the digital age.

Although they have very different practices, both Cacoveanu and Valenti attempt to account for the new forms that our experience of reality can take, whether it be in relation to the omnipresence of staging in our relationship to things, or in our obsession with archiving and documenting every phenomenon of daily life as a collective memory that would result in an endless present. In the works of these two artists, the mise en abyme are frequent. It is notably by this process that they generate gaps that push us to reconsider our way of apprehending our environments.

Displayed on a screen installed on the right wall, Cacoveanu's video *Chess for Snails* (2016) generates a poetry of the ordinary by staging snails moving slowly on a chessboard. It invites us to reflect on our relationship to images, which is becoming increasingly frenetic and fragmented due to the ubiquity of screens.

Opposite, the work *News* (2020) is displayed on the floor. This one consists of a set of paper bags on which the letters N - E - W - S are inscribed. Referring to the 4 cardinal points as well as to the word "news", this work invites us to question the role of the media, now omnipresent, in the orientation of our behaviors and our decision making.

Above the work *Sad a, happy a*, (2018) representing two smileys in neon built from two characters specific to the German and Romanian language, refers to the attempts of Cacoveanu to escape a character that could be considered "mortifying" art. For him, there is no question of accumulating, of keeping for eternity: the work has a life and questions the very fact of being an artist. He seeks simplicity and pragmatism. The work must be immediate and satisfy essential needs; Cacoveanu's poetry remains in this interstice: a grace of a suspended moment that, however, wakes us up.

In dialogue with Cacoveanu's works, Guillaume Valenti's paintings are distributed in the space.

In the painting from *Le corps et le code* series, language is lost, the context disappears, the subject (as a "thing to be seen") vanishes. Always painting the same double page, Valenti deepens different aspects of it through repetition.

The work *Aven* (2022), representing a blank picture rail within a forest landscape, bears witness to his recent research on exhibition spaces, which aims to highlight the importance of the setting in the reception of an image. Here, the artist takes an alternative space as a model: the photographic genre of exhibition views meets that of landscape painting.

Finally, two works based on photographs from a catalog on Jérôme Bosch are presented. Looking at art is an exercise that constitutes the foundation of Guillaume Valenti's work, its formal and conceptual basis. He condenses in images the spirit of the amateur with whom a part of him identifies. His work is indelible from the history of art with which it was built. The painter places his own referential field in the center of his works, and thus retranscribes a whole cycle of consumption and assimilation of the images of art in which he inscribes himself.

Guillaume Valenti (1987, France) lives and works in Paris. He graduated from the Beaux-Arts de Paris. His work has been exhibited at Fondation Lambert, Palais de l'Institut de France, Salon de Montrouge and CAC Meymac.

Flaviu Cacoveanu (1989, Romania) lives and works in Berlin. He graduated from University of Art and Design of Cluj. His works has been exhibited at the Art Encounters Biennial in Timisoara and arta.nonstop in Sibiu.