

From 26 february to 22 may 2005, the Villa Arson will be putting on three solo shows : an exhibition of **Véronique Boudier**, former Villa Arson resident, an exhibition of **Bernhard Martin**, likewise former Villa Arson resident and an exhibition of **Lari Pittman**.

Opening : 25 february 2005 at 6 pm.

Muse, seductress or homemaker, **Véronique Boudier** plays multiple roles. Whether she is dancing, armed, adorned with diamonds or covered with chocolate, she underlines with humour and poetry the complexity of the feminine. For this exhibition Véronique Boudier proposes a fitness course that winds its way through desire, sensuality and sexuality. On a melody dedicated to the body, the rhythm of the course intensifies as it passes from gentleness to nostalgia and finishes in violence. Her objects, installations, photographs and videos constitute an assemblage of elements which answer each other. They determine a temporality which associates the organic with the idea of a decline, a finitude. They are often banal gestures, minor feats, jokes and traps that function as so many quotations of the real.

Véronique Boudier was born in 1961 in Nantua. She lives in Chateaufvillain.

Bernhard Martin updates the chambers of wonders of the baroque period through the collection and appropriation of objects, fragments and images. This principle of formalist inquiry also applies to the conditions for hanging the work. For this exhibition he adds his personal collection of paintings to the presentation of his art. In both his sculptures and his paintings Bernhard Martin brings together the old and the new, the banal and the precious, with the need to attain a totality. He proposes an iconography linked to consumer culture, leisure, sex and drugs. Art history provides him with a vast field of investigation. He adapts the academic canons of portrait, landscape and genre painting. Pictorial techniques and strategies of different periods and styles mix together on the same canvas,

creating enigmatic and labyrinthine compositions. The coloured surfaces are spattered, polished, brushed or striated, inviting the eye of the viewer to wander throughout.

Bernhard Martin was born in 1966 in Hanover. He lives in Berlin.

A native of Los Angeles, **Lari Pittman** began showing his work in the 80's and has taught painting at the University of California since 1993. He works in series by declining repertoires of motifs. Each series associates a large-format painting covering several wood panels with canvases of various formats. A profusion of objects, signs and symbols, devoid of hierarchy, layer the smooth and glossy surfaces. Easily recognizable figurative elements play off abstract forms and ornamental motifs. Each painting constitutes a complex network combining contemporary or personal references and borrowings from the history of decorative arts, wallpaper or textiles. This proliferation creates dense compositions animated by an intense vitality, in which space is totally saturated. Lari Pittman plays with hybridization, tension and juxtaposition as means to build an anachronistic and fantasmagorical universe.

Lari Pittman was born in 1952 in Los Angeles. He lives in Los Angeles.

These exhibitions have received backing from the Délégation aux arts plastiques, the DRAC PACA (Ministry of culture and communications), the Alpes-Maritimes General Council, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur [PACA] Regional Council, the city of Nice.

Jean-Claude Chedal, general director

Laurence Gateau, exhibition curator

Patrick Aubouin, manager

Eric Grandbarbe, manager assistant

Anne Ginesy, secretary

Christelle Alin, public service 04 92 07 73 84

Alexia Nicolaidis, mediator

Jean-Guy Cuomo, teaching representative

Camille Courtinat, press contact 06 64 53 68 52



VILLA ARSON NICE

20 avenue Stephen Liégeois F-06105 Nice cedex 2 www.villa-arson.org

phone 04 92 07 73 73 fax 04 93 84 41 55

opening hours : 2 pm to 6 pm, closed on tuesdays.

Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication

26/02 - 22/05/2005
VÉRONIQUE BOUDIER BERNHARD MARTIN LARI PITTMAN