

SHAKING HORIZON **ROMAN ONDÁK**

The greater part of Roman Ondak's work questions the architecture of the exhibition space, the way it functions, its limits, its construction or deconstruction. In doing this Ondak relies on the fact that we can consider the space itself as a work of art, and consequently, on our ability to apprehend the scenery's reality. Quite often this process involves moving around the various elements of the architecture, for example in 2009 at the last Venice Biennale, when he planted the vegetation from the outside gardens inside the Czech and Slovak pavilion (*Loop*, 2009).

The exhibition at the Villa Arson features works ranging from 1992 to 2010, which have either rarely or never been shown before or have been reconsidered according to the context of the art centre's exhibition space. Many works also play with the relation between interior and exterior spaces, such as *Breath on Both Sides*, 2009 and *Room Extension*, 2000 which open the exhibition. The first one is a red balloon inflated right through a hole made into a large picture window overlooking a garden. The second one is a thread drawn tight through a hole in another window, and ending up on a promontory on the other side of the same garden.

In both cases, these thematic works are meant to unsettle our perception of space in a subtle way. The following fifty or so works featured, of various shapes and scales, all play with feelings of unease by causing micro-disturbances designed to upset, to change and to delude. The title of the exhibition itself, *Shaking Horizon*, explicitly refers to an unstable horizon, a mirage which we think we can see, but which remains an optical illusion.

Basically, Roman Ondak questions our place within the space more than he questions the space itself. In spite of very formal elements, his work can be said to be deeply phenomenological, attempting with remarkably restricted means to define our relation to our own environment, sometimes our relation to what is in our closest proximity. This process often entails measuring the space and the visitor as one. His piece *The Stray Man*, 2006 featured in the exhibition, can be explained in this way : the video shows a man looking inside a gallery, once again through a glass window. The man seems to be completely unconnected with what he is looking at so intently, but he keeps looking so minutely and for such a long time that in the end he becomes a part of it.

Translation : Claire Bernstein

Information in the exhibition :
students of Villa Arson's Art school
are involved in informing
and training the public in
contemporary art by
welcoming independent visitors.

An informative booklet
is given to each visitor.

Roman Ondak is in residency at
the Villa Arson from May to August 2010
with the support of the Conseil Général
des Alpes-Maritimes.

The artist resident program of the Villa Arson
is supported by the
Conseil Général des Alpes-Maritimes
and the French minister of Culture
and Communication - Drac PACA

Curator : Eric Mangion

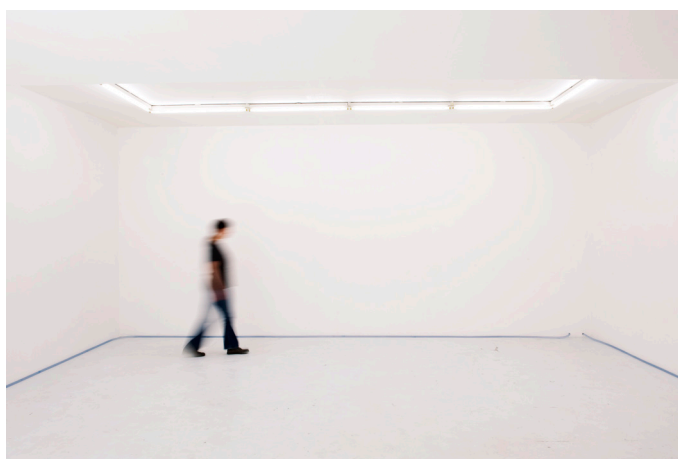
The exhibition is organised in association with the Fondazione Galleria Civica in Trento (Italy)
and the Kunstverein in Salzburg (Austria).

A publication will accompany the project, and will come out in February 2011 at the Presses
du Réel (for French version) and JRP Ringier (for English version).

Roman Ondak was born in 1966 in Zilina.
He lives and works in Bratislava in Slovakia.
He is represented by gb agency in Paris, Martin Janda Gallery in Vienna
and Johnen Gallery in Berlin.



Roman Ondák,
Fail to Fall, 2010
Inkjet print from a series
of 100. Each 21 x 29,7 cm.
Courtesy of the artist,
galleries gb agency
(Paris), Martin Janda
(Vienna) and Johnen
(Berlin).
Photo : D.R.



Roman Ondák, *Fluid Border*, 2009
Transparent hose, water pump, glass
container, water. Dimensions of installation vary
with size of room.
Courtesy of the artist, galleries gb agency (Paris),
Martin Janda (Vienna), Johnen (Berlin).
Photo: © Marc Domage

PRACTICAL INFORMATIONS

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Press materials to podcast
on www.villa-arson.org
(Espace presse)

The Centre national d'art contemporain
is open daily from 2 to 7 pm
in July and August,
and from 2 to 6 pm
in September and October.
Closed on Tuesdays.
Free admission.

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La Villa Arson is a member of
BOTOX[S] - www.botoxs.fr
and dca association française
de développement des
centres d'art - www.dca-art.com.



Roman Ondák,
Breath on Both Sides,
2009
Detail of the instal-
lation at Fondazione
Morra Greco, Naples.
Courtesy of the artist,
galleries gb agency
(Paris), Martin Janda
(Vienna) and Johnen
(Berlin).



Roman Ondák,
Lucky Day, 2006
Still from 16 mm film
Colour, silent, 4:00
min., loop.
Courtesy of the artist
galleries gb agency
(Paris), Martin Janda
(Vienna) and Johnen
(Berlin).
Photo : D.R.



Roman Ondák
Resistance, 2006.
Performance
Courtesy of the artist,
galleries gb agency (Paris),
Janda, (Vienna) and Johnen
(Berlin).
Photo : D.R.

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