

CAROLINE PAGÈS GALLERY // PRESS RELEASE



Untitled (Have you ever danced with the devil at the pale moonlight?), 2009
Giclée-print, 120 x 100 cm, Edition of 3 + 2 AP

Gerald Petit

Beautiful Strange

March 19 – May 9, 2009

Opening reception on Thursday, March 19 at 10 pm

Conversation between Gerald Petit and Pascal Beausse (critic and curator) at 10:30 pm

Caroline Pagès Gallery

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Opening hours: Monday through Saturday from 3 to 8 pm and by appointment.

Beautiful Strange is the second individual exhibition of artist Gerald Petit at the gallery. This occasion sees a mix of painting and photography with a focus on the portrait as *genre*, or rather, its appropriation as a representational form of icons taken from media-intense and popularised worlds; music being an obvious example over the years. The interaction between painting and photography appears here in a relationship consolidated by means of what each image contains, facilitating, as an area of conceptualisation, the possibility of codes of interpretation based on both duality and duplicity.

Gerald Petit's projects have been developed from the perennial perspective of the intentional observer, who takes collective imagery as one of the main creative axes; the purely social vision is, therefore, transformed into artistic representation. The narrative atmosphere, seduced by the approximation to the fantastic, has allowed the artist to explore a wide range of characters on existential levels, which also veer between the real and fictional. The mobility of his work is widely expressed in his interest in certain phenomena of popular culture that become receptive to incorporated interpretations and, by choice, generate hybrid results in formal (artistic materialisation) and temporal terms (historic and experiential time).

In Portugal, Gerald Petit took part in the travelling exhibition *Lá Fora* curated by João Pinharanda (Viana do Castelo, 2008 and *Museu da Electricidade*, Lisboa 2009) as well as in *Luzboa* 2006.

In 2007, he had an individual exhibition at the Lyon art centre *La Salle de Bains*.

In 2006, his work was included in the exhibitions *Notre Histoire - une scène artistique française émergente* at the *Palais de Tokyo* in Paris (*La Cabane du Pavillon* curated by Pascal Beausse), *Supernova* at the *Domaine Pommery* in Reims (curator Judicaël Lavrador), in Tina B, the Prague Contemporary Art Biennial (exhibition *Same Same But Different* curated by Pascal Beausse), and in the Echigo Tsumari Triennial in Japan. In Japan, his work was included in the Hiroshima Art Document in 2003 and 2004.

In 2004, Petit's work was included in *Code Unknown* at the *Palais de Tokyo* in Paris. Gerald Petit has been showing his work regularly in French institutions since 1997.

In New York, Gerald Petit is represented by Lmak Projects and has taken part in several collective exhibitions at the Yvon Lambert and Robert Mann galleries.

His work is included in public collections such as the *Fonds National d'Art Contemporain* in Paris, the *Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain d'Alsace* (FRAC Alsace), the Nicephore Niepce Museum, as well as in private collections in France, the USA, Germany and Portugal.

Rita Santos, February 2009

Caroline Pagès Gallery

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