

UNDISCLOSED RECIPIENT, 2014

**Zak Kitnick, Robert Janitz, Clémence Seilles,
Stéphane Barbier Bouvet, Mathieu Mercier.**

29.11.14 - 03.01.15

This collective project brings together artists from a variety of fields, in line with the commitment of the gallery to multidisciplinary work. The show features works by Zak Kitnick, Clémence Seilles, Stéphane Barbier Bouvet, Robert Janitz and Mathieu Mercier.

Furniture oriented elements by Kitnick, Seilles and Stéphane Barbier Bouvet spread throughout the space constitute a décor embracing the exterior and the interior. This association develops a philosophy of a non-hierarchical domestic life, favoring deterritorialization. Forgetting the idea of the functional object, the furniture is sculpture, the wall space a landscape to be invested with paintings, themselves becoming motifs.

People often wonder about the fate of artworks destined to melt into a domestic environment, but can't this décor itself become mixed up with the works?

Zak Kitnick born in 1984, is an American artist using industrial and commercial materials—like metal shelving, plywood, and posters. With screen printing he uses kitchen wallpapers patterns in his work. This domestic approach disturbs borders between design and art. In this way he creates a sculpture similar to a storage furniture with shelves that are too narrow to be used. Zak works on a double idea, the expectation of an object and an object's potential.

Robert Janitz is always interested by surfaces of any kind. He prepares his paint to be thick, opaque then he applies a mixture of oil paint and flour (and sometimes egg or wax) to obscure and reveal the medium. Like painted surfaces of buildings or surfaces that appear when we eat, Robert Janitz conceals painting with painting to show painting. This canvas is like a zoom on the ordinary surface. He applies paint in the way of someone cleans a window or spreads butter on a toast, without pictorial ambition. But he doesn't paint a representation of buttered toast this is the sensuality of his approach that speaks to the viewer. Through material and application style, Robert Janitz' paintings explore connectivity between representation and abstraction.

Born in 1984 and graduated from the Royal College of Arts in London, Clémence Seilles is a gifted young French designer. She works with the notion of «poor art» and the role and function of material. What is its place in our daily lives ? How to handle it with a contemporary way ? Simple and natural materials, clean lines, characterise her work. To *Undisclosed recipient* Clémence conceives two low-tables and one console in marble and pinewood, always with the idea of sobriety.

Stéphane Barbier Bouvet's work is not only specific or limited to object but also including its contexts. This French artist and designer takes a specific assignment and its circumstances as the starting point and main focus of his work. His economy of gesture, materials and the refusal to sacralize his work, tends towards a primary definition and a simplification of the object. Which is the result of the function. But this system is applied both objects and contexts created by Barbier Bouvet. As evidenced by this waiting room improvised in the back of the gallery with three *Contract chairs*.

Winning Prix Marcel Duchamp in 2003, Mathieu Mercier explores the permanent tension between reality and abstraction. Mathieu's work is inspired by his attention to the historical avant-garde like the work *3 axes, 3 sphères*, a new serie began this year. Plays of balance, made up of lines and spheres refers to constructivism. In spite of these references to the history of art, Mathieu leaves to audiences to make up their own minds like with this triptych. It easily lends to mental projections, by appealing to viewers' visual memories. Inspired by textile patterns or parallel-stripe painting, Mathieu Mercier submits a solution, one that is open.