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Contemporary Drawing: The Many Faces of Now is Our Future

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On the special occasion of Drawing Now's tenth year, the selection committee were asked to hand-pick an emerging artist to present in a special exhibition. The aim of this exhibition, curated by Philippe Piguet, is to communicate specific aspects of contemporary drawing that these artists imbue in their work. The selection committee, comprising of art critics, institutional representatives, art collectors, and connoisseurs, are praised for their efforts over the last decade in this special exhibition of their personal preferred drawing pieces. All the pieces exemplify a particular aesthetic, technique, style, and approach to this medium, and work together to curate a unified body of the latest offerings in the world of drawing.

Christian Bernard, former director of Mamco, presents the work of Béatrice Cussol. Cussol's work makes use of a Surrealist stylistic approach. The image conveys multiple meanings simultaneously and at the same time, urges the viewer to interpret the piece as they wish. Laurent Busine, former director of MAC's, is presenting the work of Bertille Bak. Bak's work conveys a tremendous intimacy through line and the inclusion of the personal in every rendering. Collector Michel Poitevin presents the work of Karine Rougier. Poitevin states about the artist's work "... what appeals to me is her work's restraint. Nothing is imposed, but instead reveals itself". Olivier Kaepelin, director at Fondation Maeght, presents the work of Assan Smati. Smati's lively work endorses the playful and encourages movement. Alexandra Fau, art critic, presents the work of Charlotte Charbonnel. Charbonnel's work, fleeting and plastic all at once, engages the viewer with a cloud 'caught' between two microscope plates and is truly a product of contemporary drawing.

The collectors Nicolas Libert and Emmanuel Renoird present the work of THE KID. The work of this artist challenges any complacency in the viewer. Realistic, massive, and positively coarse, the work swallows the viewer into the world of the subject. Emilie Ovaere-Corthay, director at Galerie Jean Fournier has chosen to present the work of Olivier Soulerin. Soulerin's work proposes a simplified grid format that aims to explore the notion of colour. Elsy Lahner, contemporary art curator, presents the work of Micha Payer and Martin Gabriel. These artists work with the magical in this piece, and engage space, form, and colour in this work. Collector Sébastien Peyret presents the work of Efren Alvarez. The work offers an ambiguous stand on the political through thoughtful renderings of current issues.

Colette Barbier, director at Fondation d'Enterprise Ricard has chosen to present the work of Sarah Tritz. Tritz' work, ambiguous, playful, and accomplished "...continuously counterbalances the knowledgeable referencing that spans almost every single one of her works" (Barbier). Jean-Marc Salomon, director at Fondation Art Contemporain Claudine et Jean-Marc Salmon, has chosen to showcase the artist Tudi Deligne. His work focuses on "deconstructing shapes and figures until they become 'other'" (Deligne). Curator at Kuferstichkabinett, Andreas Schalhorn presents the work of Pius Fox. The work recalls a deeply Modernist aesthetic, but with a contemporary take on the 20th century treatment of colour and shape. The curator Marc Donnadiou, has chosen to present the work of Guillaume Talbi, whose work is reminiscent of the biomorphic forms of Miró, albeit with an updated aesthetic. Sandra Hegedüs, collector, presents the work of Chourouk Hriech. Hriech's works on display are at once architectural, mural, and engage the concept of space in a remarkable way.

The works on display at "Now is our Future" communicate the personal, formal, and aesthetic choices of the selection committee, past and present, of Drawing Now. Through a well-curated display of these artists, the exhibition successfully updates the viewer on contemporary practice in drawing.

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