

BABEL COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION
13.09 — 14.12.2019

Lawrence Abu Hamdan | Marc Buchy | Erik Bullot | Brendan Fernandes | Michel François
Rainer Ganahl | Susan Hiller | Marianne Mispelaëre | Myriam Pruvot | Meggy Rustamova | Zineb Sedira

For its return in 2019, ISELP is introducing BABEL, a collective exhibition bringing together ten or so recent works which use language as a vehicle for expression (of culture, identity, etc.).

The parable of the Tower of **Babel** tells of the confusion and diversity created amongst human beings by their means of expression: language. Today, whether it unites or divides, language remains a driver of identity and culture in a diverse and multicultural society.

The exhibition brings together national and international artists who focus on languages and their influences. Each piece gives pause for thought as to the transformation of the global linguistic landscape, linguistic mutation and the consequences for the quest for self-knowledge. The main themes addressed are languages, their transmission or disappearance, identity, memory and also more politically, language as a tool for discrimination. Can you be driven away from a country because of the language you speak?

In the works of **Zineb Sedira** (French, living and working between London and Paris) and **Meggy Rustamova** (German, living and working in Belgium) verbal expression reveals an individual's biography, geography, migration and heritage. The works of **Marc Buchy** (French, living and working in Belgium) and **Brendan Fernandes** (Canadian, living and working in the United States) address the notions of heritage and learning and challenge the globalised narrative of micro-histories.

In her work *La Bibliothèque des silences*, a work in situ, French artist **Marianne Mispelaëre** focuses on the disappearance of languages. This subject is also depicted in the key work *The Last Silent Movie* by the American artist **Susan Hiller**.

The more political side is tackled in the exhibition by **Lawrence Abu Hamdan** (Jordanian, living and working in the Lebanon) and **Rainer Ganahl** (Austrian, living and working in the United States) whose works question the system of domination and immigration. The photography of **Michel François** (Belgian) highlights the contradiction between words and silence. Other artists such as **Erik Bullot** (French) and **Myriam Pruvot** (French, living and working in Belgium) evoke the possibility of alternative languages and, amongst other things, propose returning to a mythical or even universal language.

The variety of voices portrayed by **BABEL** demonstrate our relationship to each other. A means of communication, transmission or discrimination, language tells its own story, which is the result of an evolving society in a contrasting and upset geo-political context.

P R E S S P R E V I E W
12 SEPTEMBER 4.30PM - 6.30PM

P R E V I E W
12 SEPTEMBER 6.30PM - 9PM

PRESS CONTACT

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Curated by :

Catherine Henkinet and Mélanie Rainville

USEFUL INFORMATIONS

EXHIBITION FROM TUESDAY TO SATURDAY FROM 11AM TO 6PM, FREE ENTRY

CONFERENCES/SCREENINGS: 6 € / 4€* - Tickets on sale on the spot

* Students under 26, teachers

Free for ISELP Members, unemployed, under-18s, IKT, Article 27



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