

GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA

PARIS - BRUXELLES

Agnès Varda

Triptyques atypiques

February 8 – April 5, 2014

3, rue du Cloître Saint-Merri - 75004 Paris



Marie dans le vent, 2014

Nathalie Obadia is delighted to present *Triptyques Atypiques*, Agnès Varda's first solo exhibition at her Parisian gallery, and the third collaboration with this emblematic French New Wave director, who likes to describe herself as "an old filmmaker who has become a young visual artist."

While LACMA (the Los Angeles County Museum of Art) is exhibiting (through June 2014) a set of pieces, including a shack made of film stock, under the title *Agnès Varda in Californialand*, Galerie Nathalie Obadia is presenting recent works by this artist, a bold combination of photographs, videos and various materials. *Triptyques Atypiques* refers to the number 3 and to the old triptych paintings that Agnès is fond of.

Portraits with video sides are made of a central image, a photograph, usually in black and white (gelatin silver), printed and hung on the wall, with videos projected on either side. The point is to juxtapose the fascination exerted by still or fixed images at a given moment and the energy exuded by moving images directly linked to the central figure:

- *Marie dans le vent (Marie in the wind)* : tousled but unmoving, surrounded by wind turbines spinning with hypnotic regularity.
- *Achille et Pâris, enfants de cirque (Achille and Pâris, circus children)* , who posed together. Despite their young age, they work as professionals at the Phocéén circus.
- *Alice et les vaches blanches (Alice and the white cows)*, which, at moments, given the calm of the cows, offers viewers, a meditation on our perception of movement.

There are other triptych portraits, this time wholly photographic ones, whether in colour or black-and-white. For these, Varda has conceived metal frames vaguely inspired by the work of Mexican artisans, including the hinges. The photographs in the side panels of each triptych are related to the person in the photograph : *Jeune fille à la tourterelle (Young girl with Turtle Dove, 1950-2014)/Miquel Barceló (2013)/Rosalie, ma fille (Rosalie, my daughter , 2014)*.

Agnès Varda suggests two other approaches to the triptych:
– An image of historical Paris and a little dog (1953), cut in three.
– An installation of three objects in homage to Lautréamont.

We know that Agnès Varda has already worked on the theme of vision in three images in the *Triptyque de Noirmoutier* (2004), shown at the Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, which has acquired the work, as has MOMA.

Visitors to the gallery are also greeted by a fragmented composition, but this time in the form of a jigsaw puzzle assembled and exhibited. Five holidaymaking school leavers who had just taken their *baccalauréat* posed for Agnès on her favourite beach in Noirmoutier.

Agnès Varda shows in two triptychs, stills extracted from one of the sequences of her movie *Sans toit ni loi* (*Vagabond*, 1985), thereby continuing her reflection on photography and video and their relation to time and movement.

Played by Sandrine Bonnaire, Mona is attacked by the grotesquely disguised Paillasses, who cover her with wine lees as part of a folk ritual.

Immobilising these filmed moments, the subject, meaning and rhythm of the film disappear, their place being taken by a series of abstract images, the traces of movements.

AGNÈS VARDA

ON TRIPTYQUES ATYPIQUES

“A title that rhymes, with a wandering Y.

A project connected with old paintings and my taste for the figure 3 were the starting point for this project for an exhibition at Nathalie Obadia in Rue du Cloître Saint-Merri.

Various triptychs: photographs in three parts, gelatin-silver portraits with video side panels, frames in 3 panels...
Classical or atypical, we'll see.

Also, a jigsaw puzzle of 167 interlocking pieces
to reconstitute an image; it's a game that becomes static:
baccalauréat students who posed on posts like resting seagulls.

We capture the cessation of movement, or a 24th of a second.
The violence is frozen
I like to juxtaposed images using the media at my disposal: photography, cinema and video.
Black-and-white and colour... Paper, wood.
Metal and cardboard, everything can be made into a proposition.”

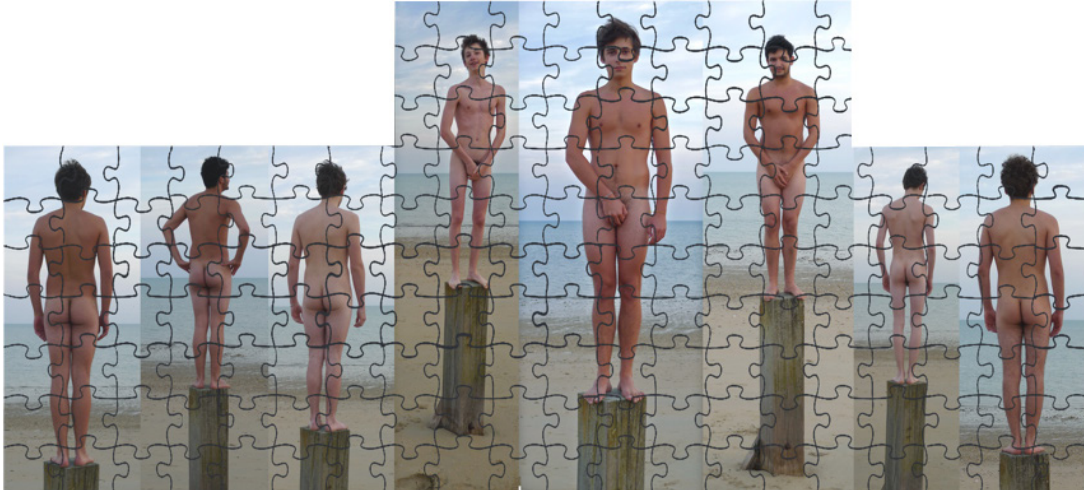
Agnès Varda, January 2014.

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Agnès Varda

Triptyques atypiques



Cinq bacheliers, 2013

Digital composition printed on 167 magnetic parts of puzzle
170 × 380 cm



Achille et Pâris, enfants de cirque, 2013

Photograph and gelatin silver print on fiber-based warmtone paper,
HD blu-ray video in loop
108 × 192 cm - 16/9 Format



Marie dans le vent, 2014

Photograph and gelatin silver print on fiber-based warmtone paper,
HD blu-ray video in loop
108 × 192 cm - 16/9 Format

© Agnès Varda

Courtesy Galerie Nathalie Obadia

ROYALTY FREE USE UNTIL END OF APRIL 2014

The Three Lives of AGNÈS VARDA (1928)

Photographer.

In the 1950s Agnès Varda became an accredited photographer for the Avignon Festival and the Théâtre National Populaire (Jean Vilar, Gérard Philipe, Jeanne Moreau, Philippe Noiret etc.). Photojournalism in China, Cuba, Portugal, and Germany, plus personal photographs.

Filmmaker.

In 1954 she set up the production company Ciné-Tamaris to make her first feature film, *La Pointe courte*, thanks to which she is known as the “Grandmother of the Nouvelle Vague.”

The best known of the 33 fictions and documentaries both long and short made by Agnès include *Cléo from 5 to 7* (1961), *Vagabond* (Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival, 1985), *Jacquot de Nantes* (1991), *The Gleaners and I* (2000) and *The Beaches of Agnès* (César for Best Documentary, 2008). In 2011 the series *Agnès de-ci de-là Varda*, was shown on Arte then published on DVD. It features her travels and meetings with artists. 2012: release of all Varda's films on DVD in a box set *TOU(T)e VARDA* co-published by Arte and Ciné-Tamaris.

President of the Caméra d'Or jury at the Cannes Film Festival in 2013.

Visual artist.

In 2003 Agnès started her career as a “visual artist” (an expression she prefers to the French *plasticienne*), making installations, videos and photographs.

2003, Venice Biennale, *PATATUTOPIA*

2004, Galerie Martine Aboucaya, *LES VEUVES DE NOIRMOUTIER* (collection FRAC de Lorraine) and *LE TRIPTYQUE DE NOIRMOUTIER*.

2006, Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, *L'ILE ET ELLE*: 8 installations, including *LA CABANE DE CINÉMA* made from film stock, *LE TRIPTYQUE DE NOIRMOUTIER* (collections MOMA and Fondation Cartier), *LE TOMBEAU DE ZGOUGOU* (collections Fondation Cartier and MAC/VAL), and *LA MER IMMENSE* (collection MAC/VAL).

2009, CRAC de Sète, *LA MER ETSÈTERA*.

2009, Lyon Biennale, 3 *CABANES*.

June 2010, Galerie Nathalie Obadia in Brussels, *PORTRAITS BRISÉS*.

June 2010, Art 41 Basel (Art Unlimited with Galerie Nathalie Obadia), *LA CABANE SUR LA PLAGE*, which is also a projection cabin.

March–April 2012, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing and Hubei Art Museum, Wuhan (China), recent installations and photographs taken in China in 1957 displayed on a specially designed structure

June–August 2012, *LE VOYAGE À NANTES : DES CHAMBRES EN VILLE* and *PAROLES DE SQUATTEURS*.

January–February 2013, recent photographs and new video under the title *LES BOUCHES DU RHÔNE*, at the Galerie d'Art du Conseil Général in Aix-en-Provence, as part of Marseille-Provence 2013.

June–August 2013, Bildmuseet, Umeå, Sweden, solo show on two floors.

June to September 2013 : Dinard, *L'AMOUR ATOMIQUE* (group show), *DÉPÔT DE LA CABANE DE PLAGE* and *BORD DE MER* (collection Fondation Bernard Magrez).

November 2013–June 2014: LACMA (Los Angeles), *AGNÈS VARDA IN CALIFORNIALAND*

And also: SMAK Ghent, Haus der Kunst Munich, Sélestat, Lieu Unique - Nantes, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo - Seville, Musée Serralves - Porto.

Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Bourg-Tibourg

Sarkis
Au commencement le blanc
9 January - 1st March 2014

Fabrice Hyber
Interdit aux enfants
14 March - 13 May 2014
Opening on March 14

Xu Zhen by Madeln Company
24 May - 25 July 2014
Opening on May 24

Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Cloître Saint-Merri

Agnès Varda
Triptyques atypiques
8 February - 5 April 2014
Opening on February 8

Manuel Ocampo
12 April - May 2014
Opening on April 12

Laure Prouvost
September - October 2014

Luc Delahaye
November - December 2014

Galerie Nathalie Obadia
Bruxelles

Eugène Leroy
Peintures et Fusains
8 January - 8 March 2014

Andres Serrano
Cuba
13 March - 17 April 2014
Opening on March 19

Valérie Belin
22 April - 21 June 2014
Opening on April 22

Sophie Kuyjken
26 June - 26 July 2014
Opening on June 26

For further information, please contact Maimiti Cazalis
maimiti.cazalis@galerie-obadia.com — + 33 (0)1 42 74 67 68

T +33 (0)1 42 74 67 68 | INFO@GALERIE-OBADIA.COM | WWW.GALERIE-OBADIA.COM