

Latifa Echakhch

*there's tears*

opening April 28, 2015

In Latifa Echakhch's work, ink appears in diverse forms: solidified in hats that seem discarded, absorbed into large raw canvases, dripped onto the windows of a museum.

Ink's capability to channel a message is replaced by a different kind of expressiveness, non-verbal but still poignant.

Latifa Echakhch's exhibition in the gallery appears as a sober and off-scale drawing, in which the feelings and the messages are conveyed through two apparently antithetical series. The two groups of works weave together the historical and concrete reality with representation, shifting memory to a timeless dimension.

*there's tears* consists of a series of canvases covered with newspaper made illegible. As often happens with Echakhch's works, the neutrality of a minimal approach implodes at the hand of the simple use of object imbued with a sociological and cultural charge.

The act of erasure and the dissolve of the printed texts result in what appears to be a reaction to the newspapers arduous content. Through a gesture that is both poetic and conceptual, the canvas becomes a window that frames reality, a reality no longer controlled by reason, and therefore tragically crude. The loss of meaning transforms into a feeling of mourning.

As counterparts to the works on canvas – a sort of CMYK interpretation of the watercolour technique- are solid black groups of clouds, hung from the ceiling, dropped almost to touch the ground. The clouds can be seen as the remnants of a theater performance, abandoned vestiges of a seemingly innocent representation. At the same time, the clouds position and color introduce an opposite feeling to the scenery, evoking a sense of loss and an imminent threat.

In Latifa Echakhch's exhibition, subversion and mourning are intertwined with the apparently antithetical sense of memory and hope, mirroring life complexity and inevitable ambivalence.

Born in El Khnansa, Morocco (1974) but raised in France, Latifa Echakhch lives and works in Martigny, Switzerland.

Winner of the Zurich Art Prize in 2015, Latifa Echakhch's selected solo exhibitions include: Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, Linz (2015); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2014) (Prix Marcel Duchamp 2013); Cabinet of Curiosities, Dommuseum, Salzburg (2014); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2013) curated by Anne Ellegood; Musée d'Art contemporain, Lyon (2013); Kunsthau Zürich, Zurich (2012) curated by Mirjam Varadinis; Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio (2012) curated by Lisa Dent; Portikus, Frankfurt (2012); Kunstmuseen, Krefeld (2011); Fondation Louis Moret, Martigny (2011); FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims (2010) curated by Florence Derieux; GAMeC, Bergamo (2010) curated by Alessandro Rabottini; MACBA, Barcelona (2010) curated by Bartomeu Mari; Fri Art, Fribourg (2010) curated by Corinne Charpentier; Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel (2009) curated by Rein Wolfs; Bielefelder Kunstverein, Bielefeld (2009); Swiss Institute, New York (2009); Tate Modern, London (2008); NorrlandsOperan, Umea (2008).

Selected group exhibitions include: Swiss Institute, New York (2015); Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2014) curated by Caroline Bourgeois; 11th Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah (2013) curated by Yuko Hasegawa; MoMA PS1, New York (2013); Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (2012) curated by Adam Szymczyk; 18th Sydney Biennial, Sydney (2012) curated by Catherine de Zegher and Gerald McMaster; 54th Venice Biennale, Venice (2011) curated by Bice Curiger; 10th Biennial of contemporary Art, Lyon (2009) curated by Hou Hanru; Manifesta 7, Bolzano (2008).