

*The Twentieth Fondation d'entreprise Ricard Prize*

Opening on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 9pm  
Exhibition from September 11<sup>th</sup> to October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Curated by Neïl Beloufa

"For 20 years, the Fondation d'entreprise Ricard Prize has been supporting and helping build the French art scene in its structures, hierarchies, methods and forms. Year after year, it legitimizes the practices of artists, curators and institutions, while establishing melodic contrasts when it invites artists to do curation and curators to do art.

Although, more broadly, the torch-passing and role-usurping games between authors, actors, commentators, settings, dedicated and non-dedicated sites, inside and outside, with and without, together, alone and constrained, new and used, free and unfree could constitute a subject, today it seems that these systematic decompartmentalizations have become models of exhibition conception.

So although everything has been said and refuted, validation authorities remain legitimate while no longer representing a concern for artists. Artistic practices are emerging that are no longer about calibration at any cost, nor about opposition formats. The commitment is complete, and is more casual than vindictive. The purposeful lack of definition in these productions is not intended as a statement. It refocuses works on what this introduction avoids evoking in a drawn-out paradox: art and its experimentation.

The exhibition *The Twentieth Fondation d'entreprise Ricard Prize* attempts to respect the modalities of its existence while showing this movement, whose main actors are not concerned about each other.

Happy anniversary and thank you.

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The nominees:

Meriem Bennani

Ludovic Boulard Le Fur

*Has been, hélas* (an exhibition by Camille Besson, Raphaël Rossi, Maxime Testu and Victor Vaysse from Le Marquis studio)

Anne Le Troter

Lucile Littot

Guillaume Maraud

Liv Schulman

South Way Studio (a project by Emmanuelle Luciani and Charlotte Cosson)

Victor Yudaev

The 20<sup>th</sup> Fondation d'entreprise Ricard Prize will be awarded on October 19, 2018.

**PRESSE** Antonia Scintilla, Fondation d'entreprise Ricard – 01 53 30 88 02 –  
antonia.scintilla@fondation-entreprise-ricard.com

**Meriem Bennani** uses video to re-teach simple, rarely tackled subjects like love, fashion and pop star fantasies. From the documentary register to reality-TV scenarios, she leads her pieces towards a toned-down neo-mannerism of video effects and installations in relief. This affectionate overstatement gives everyday life the power of the most grandiloquent operas, even if we have never gone to the opera.

She was born in 1988 in Rabat (Morocco), and lives and works in New York (USA). She studied at the Cooper Union in New York and at ENSAD in Paris.

She is represented by SIGNAL in New York

**Ludovic Boulard Le Fur** is the creator of continuous work, which has led him from series to series, from illustration to engraving, to carved wood, to sculpture, and more recently to oil painting. In compositions that are a matter of shapelessness, the image is constructed by distinguishing eyes, faces and creatures. The work continues daily in modest, standard formats. The search for a form of representation tends to become the subject of his images. A panoramic unfolding of his work gently tells us about its evolution.

He was born in 1981 in Paris, and he lives and works in Mouleydier. He studied at ENSBA in Paris and at the School of Art & Design in Canberra (Australia).

**Anne Le Troter**'s main subject is speech and its formal formats. In language—through sound poetry, installations, theatre and writing—she intensifies the contrary movements of collective standards and individual expression. Her pieces combine corporative, domestic and emotional situations, stretching them to the point of abstraction, in an exhibition space, in a book, on SoundCloud, or (why not?) in people.

She was born in 1985 in Saint-Étienne, and she lives and works in Paris. She studied at HEAD in Geneva (Switzerland) and at ESAD in Saint-Étienne.

**Lucile Littot**, in her porcelains, paintings, videos and performances, attempts to give life to archetypes that are not just autobiographical motifs, but also clichés of the history of film. They are developed in a system of equivalence spread between reality and fiction, between periods and between art registers. In her work, this results in scenarios of a nonchalant, macabre decadence under the influence of rococo. Her positioning without any distancing had a bewildering effect on us.

She was born in 1985 in Paris, where she lives and works. She studied at the École d'arts in Rueil-Malmaison and at the École des beaux-arts in Marseille. She is represented by the New Galerie in Paris.

**Guillaume Maraud** develops his work in a spirit of winter romanticism in which cultural mediums provide the codes of a new generation of vanities. By creating various series of inert objects and images, he replays a mass dysfunctional empathy. Post-conceptual gestures place his work in an irresolute state between the construction of form, the desire to produce, and their impossibility. From the financing of the object for which we are being solicited, to its production and reappearance in different states, everything acts.

Born in 1988 in Bordeaux, he now lives and works in Paris. He studied law at Université de Bordeaux, then studied at ENSAPC in Cergy. He is represented by Bel Ami in Los Angeles (USA) and Édouard Montassut in Paris.

*Has been, hélas* is an exhibition by four artists who work in Le Marquis studio in Saint-Denis and regularly exhibit their work together. This shared workspace involves a circulation of ideas,

constraints and tools; it conditions a group dynamic while also surprisingly encouraging the autonomy of the sculptural practices of Camille Besson, Raphaël Rossi, Maxime Testu and Victor Vaysse. Their energy eludes our usual tools for defining the group and the individual.

**Camille Besson** was born 1990 in Nîmes. He studied at HEAD in Geneva.

**Raphaël Rossi** was born in 1988 in Dijon. He studied at ESAD in Reims.

**Maxime Testu** was born in 1990 in Rouen. He studied at ENSBA in Lyon and at HEAD in Geneva.

**Victor Vaysse** was born in 1989 in Paris. He studied at ENSBA in Paris and at the Fresnoy in Tourcoing.

They live and work in Paris and Seine-Saint-Denis.

**Liv Schulman** observes how contemporary societies alienate individuals and social groups. The words at the heart of her pieces explore the place of subjectivity within the political sphere, and the difficulty of giving it credit. Thus she presents a real soap opera on TV and also in a museum. She gets us to subscribe to her theories while simultaneously scuppering them. In the incredulous belief of her work, creating involves directly experiencing an environment, system or subject.

She was born in 1985. She grew up in Buenos Aires (Argentina), and lives and works in Paris. She studied at ENSAPC in Cergy, at Goldsmiths University of London (United Kingdom), at UTDT in Buenos Aires and at ENSBA in Lyon.

**South Way Studio** is a comprehensive project generating works of art, exhibitions, texts published in the magazine CODE South Way, and a production residency in Marseille. It was initiated by Emmanuelle Luciani and Charlotte Cosson, who are art historians and curators. Here, theoretical and artistic work are mutually influential. Researchers curate, curators give technical help to artists, artists theorize and produce. This results in exhibitions that take the form of historical explorations, in which each of the participants contributes to an object that eludes all reduction.

**Emmanuelle Luciani** and **Charlotte Cosson** live and work in Marseille.

**Victor Yudaev**, as a sculptor who does theater design with his own sculptures, presents works while also presenting designs of characters, of their costumes, even of their silhouettes. He introduces micro-narratives that involve them, and meta-anecdotes on their development. In the form of volumes, photographs or writings, he collects scraps of what exists and recombines them in the semi-opaque bubble of his own lexicon. In his anachronistic world, each element makes us believe in its own life.

He was born in 1984 in Moscow (USSR) and lives in France. He studied at KABK in the Hague (Netherlands) and at ENSBA in Lyon.

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