

## FORMS AND FORCES OF ATTRACTION

It is with great pleasure that we present the ninth edition of Art Unlimited, this very special exhibition which brings together a collection of extraordinary projects in parallel with Art Basel. This year, Art Unlimited is continuing to pursue its primary goal: to display to the best effect large-scale projects of artists, works on a museum quality, complex installations which are demanding in terms of format, sound, space or light. Some of them are spectacular, some subdued and subtle, but all are superb pieces created by immensely talented artists.

This annual exhibition is intended to enable artists to present their most original and special projects. These are projects which require very careful presentation. It is thus important for us to understand their intentions properly to find the solutions which best serve their works and their perception. While artists sometimes deal with similar subjects, they remain highly individual in their manner of treating those subjects. Indeed, that is what makes them so effective. But it would be a mistake to think of works in isolation. Their immediate environment, the space in which the works are placed and the way of approaching them are essential factors. Organizing the course through the exhibition is both a great pleasure and a great challenge. It is just as important to design the spaces allocated to the various works as to promote the dialogue they can have with each other.

This year we have chosen to stress the forms of tension and opposition which can exist among the works, but also within them. The works selected possess multiple and antagonistic forces. They simultaneously show what they are, but also what they are not. Though differing in form, the works possess both centrifugal and centripetal forces. They evoke order and disorder, danger and safety, randomness and organization, power and weakness, changelessness and life, sensuality and toughness, fragility and solidity.

The layout of the exhibition has been architecturally designed to respond to those internal or external tensions. It composes with the various forms to generate an interplay of attraction and opposition. It makes the installations respond to each other. Using analogies or similarities, some features of one piece can also be found in another. A regular

line of solid and immutable blocks of cement, for example, is activated by a grid of luminous dots which light up and move around according to a random programme. As can be imagined, these pieces have as many divergent as convergent points.

The contrast among the various installations serves each of them, but it also reveals the wealth and complexity of the contemporary art scene. Art Unlimited thus generously and attentively reflects artists' views of the world today; a changing world, with its certainties and its doubts. For it must be stressed that most of the artists prepare projects specifically for this context or choose this occasion to show their most recent ones. They come in person to install their work, and the overwhelming majority of projects have been produced during the last year.

But Art Unlimited is also a place where perspective and reactivation are necessary. Not all the pieces are as recent, and it is interesting to see how the works evolve over time, how they maintain their topicality and relevance. The same goes for the types of works and media. These contacts and confrontations are precisely what we are trying to achieve. Large-format paintings, performances and installations should rub shoulders with sculptures, environments and videos.

Our goal is as much to present the pieces to the best possible effect as to ensure the success of the exhibition. Indeed, one requires the other. We thus hope each exhibition will be an improvement on the last, for the benefit of the works, the artists, and the public. We hope you enjoy your visit.

Simon Lamunière  
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