

11 MARCH 2015
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- Galleria Continua
- Kader Attia
- Mor Charpentier
- Xippas Gallery

Escape from Paris: a cornucopia of art at a breathtaking location



A visit to Galleria Continua is a real treat: an abundance of high quality contemporary art from all corners of the world presented at two former industrial sites. Four reasons to pay a visit:

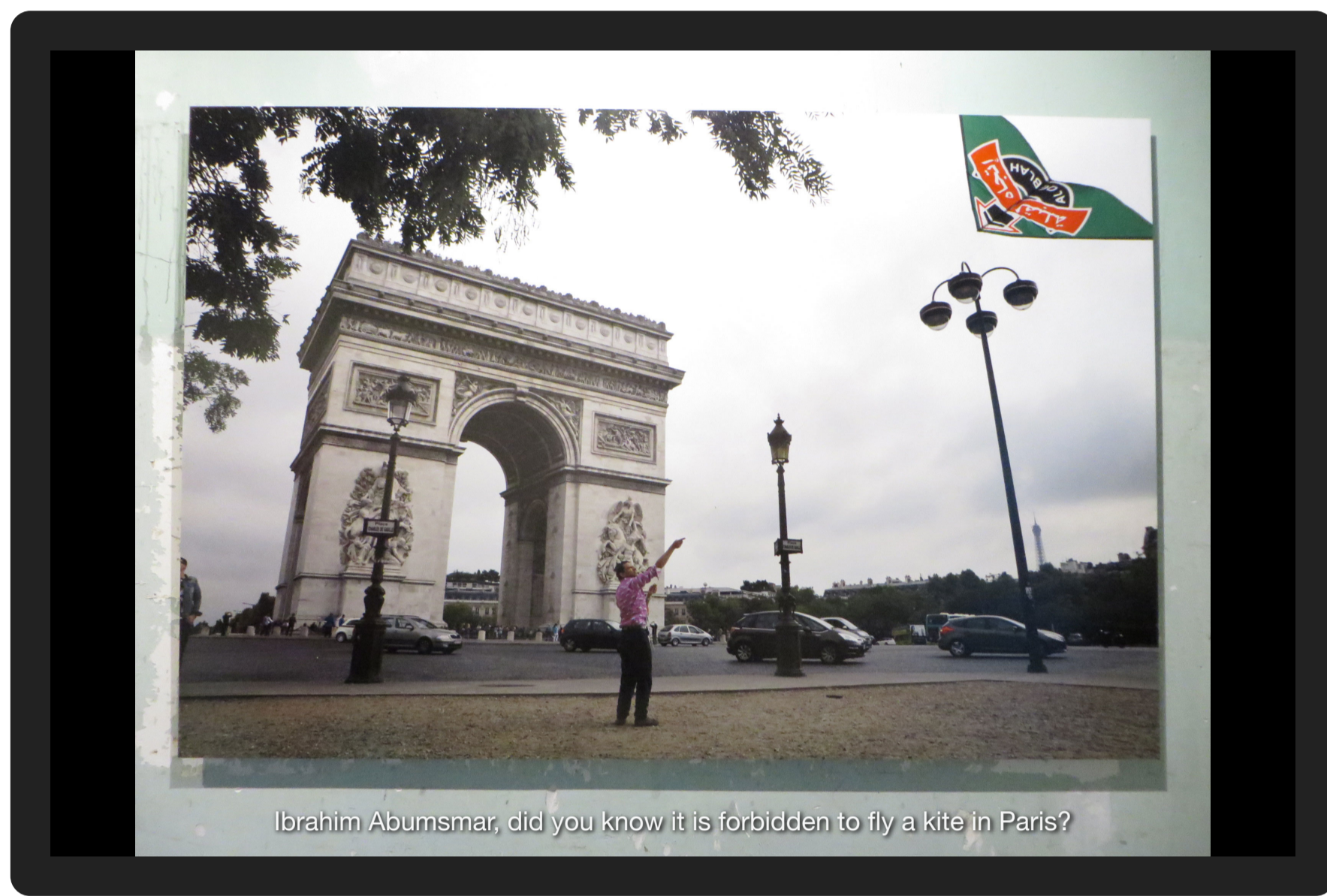
1. an escape from Paris

The visit offers a welcome escape from Paris. It's an hour by train from Gare de L'Est. During that hour I enjoyed the French scenery that passed by the window. I had forgotten about the fifties concrete fencing and about the electricity cables that still run above the ground. Arriving in Coulommiers you take the bus, or preferably a prearranged taxi, to the gallery. It's so comforting to be surrounded by trees and rivers and to walk on grass and earth when you are fed up with your Parisian stony environment.

2. two overwhelming locations

If I'm not mistaken both locations are former paper factories. They consist of an amalgam of disparate buildings alongside a small river. The patina of the past is an artwork in itself. **Moulin de Boissy, the main location** where Continua's offices are situated, is characterized by peeling paint, post-war measuring devices, obsolete pumps, dusty notice boards and various signs. The routing offers an experience too. For example after a sequence of small, dark rooms with low ceilings an iron staircase unexpectedly gives way to a huge production hall. The temperature is another peculiarity. Now, early March, it was colder inside than outside.

Nature is slowly usurping the buildings at the **second location: Le Moulin de Sainte-Marie**. The huge scale is met by mega art pieces that are scattered over the various buildings and outdoor sites. We were all dreaming of doing a residency here. Not that it is a possibility though. We envied Lucy and Jorge Orta, initiators of this undertaking *and* the residents. They occupy a slice of the domain.



3. an evolving mini biennial

The sheer abundance and quality of the art is astonishing. The artworks differ strongly in attitude, subject, medium and size: from micro to macro. **In one afternoon you're informed about what happens in the regions of India, Ivory Coast, Seoul and Saudi Arabia.** Under the heading of 'Sphères 7', seven galleries throughout the world were invited by Continua to present their artists: 313 Art Project from Seoul, ATHR Gallery from Jeddah, Thomas Brambilla from Bergamo, Chatterjee & Lal from Mumbai, Galerie Cécile Fakhoury from Abidjan, Mor Charpentier and Xippas Gallery from Paris.

And no, they do not only promote the usual suspects, there was a lot to be discovered. When 'Sphères 8' is due (June?) other artists from other parts of the world will be invited. It's like an evolving, everlasting, mini biennial. Galleria Continua gives the floor to its own artists as well. During the current exhibition period there is amongst others a solo show of the French/Algerian Kader Attia.

4. art first: no focus on money, status or glamour

Although the presented artworks can be bought, the focus on money, status and glamour, so present in Paris, is absent. **Here the artwork can relax** and take up as much space as it likes. It doesn't have to compete with other art pieces. The rhythm of the market is traded for a **slow experience**. Some reside for over a season, the semi-permanent ones are here to stay.

>>> Galleria Continua Les Moulins, Boissy-le-Châtel.



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dear Nanda, thank you so much for this review and pictures about this off- expo site. it is on my list to visit for so long and now I feel compelled to make an appointment to go! not many women artists though... where are they?
warm regards Mirjam.

★ Like

mirjam westen , 15 March 2015 at 8:03 AM

REPLY



Dear Mirjam, great to receive your enthusiastic response! It's true the female artists were outnumbered by the male artists but somehow my photo selection mainly showed male artists. I wasn't aware of that. Apart from Liliana Porter, there were amongst others Sophie Whetnall, Lara Almarcegui, Zhanna Kadyrova, Voluspa Jarpa, Corinna Gosmaro and Lucy Orta.

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nandajanssen , 15 March 2015 at 9:13 PM

REPLY



grappig zeg... hadden zij geen interessante beelden? ik ken het werk van Zhanna Kadyrova en Voluspa Jarpa niet... de moeite waard? groetjes mirjam

★ Like

Mirjam Westen , 15 March 2015 at 11:56 PM

REPLY

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