



Spectral Lines

Dineo Seshee Bopape | Lunga Kama | Jessica Lajard

Exhibition from november 6 to december 18 2010

Dineo Seshee Bopape

Polokwane (South Africa), 1981 - lives and works in New York.

Sineo Seshee Bopape is a 2007 graduate of De Ateliers in Amsterdam and in May 2010 completed an MFA with Columbia University, New York. She was the winner of the 2008 MTN New Contemporaries Award. She was the only South African artist included in the exhibition Younger Than Jesus, the first edition of « The Generational », a new triennial at the New Museum, New York (2009). Recent group shows « Life Less Ordinary: Performance and Display in South African Art » at the Fotogallery in Cardiff, Wales (2010), and « Rebelle: Art and Feminism 1969-2009 » at the Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, The Netherlands (2009).

Lunga Kama

Cape Town (South Africa), 1982 - lives and works in Cape Town.

Lunga Kama is currently a Master's student at Stellenbosch University, where he completed his BFA in 2008. Previous exhibitions include « Spier Contemporary » (2007/8), « Greatest Hits, AVA », Cape Town (2007), « Disguise: the art of attracting and deflecting attention », Michael Stevenson, Cape Town (2008), an exhibition of South African student photography at Photokina, Cologne (2008), and « Self/Not-Self », Brodie/Stevenson, Johannesburg, 2009. In 2008 he was the winner of an ABSA L'Atelier Merit Award.

Jessica Lajard

Libourne (France), 1985 - lives and works in Paris.

After studying at the Atelier de Sèvres, Jessica Lajard joins the ENSBA in 2005, where she finds the opportunity to work in in Jean-Luc Vilmouth's atelier and graduates Cum Laude (2010).

Every year, since 2005, she takes part in exhibitions, especially at the Finnish Institute (2005), at the Espace Fondation EDF (2006), at the l'Espace - Centre Culturel français of Hanoi (2007), at the Passage de Retz (2008) and at Galerie Bendana-Pinel Art Contemporain (2009).

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In a sense, the exhibition Spectral Lines is based on a simple 'double entendre', speaking of lines belonging to the colour spectrum, but also the lines of spectres, or ghosts. On the one hand, Dineo Bopape, Lunga Kama and Jessica Lajard share a considered interest in colour that sets them apart from other artists in their generation whose work relies primarily on conceptual elements. At the recent exhibition 'Lights Camera Action' at the Marshall Haus in Berlin, Bopape's installation 'Anthrophobia' looked a little like a spaceship from the planet Colour, stranded in a desert of monochrome gravitas. Lanard's 'Stick', similarly looks like an object from outer space, perhaps a brightly coloured counterpart to the ominous black bar central to the opening scene of Kubrick's 2001: A Space Oddesey. In Kama's large colour self-portraits, the stylized poses and carefully placed dots belie their dark, brooding content. In the photographs, Kama has adorned himself with the medication he needs for his mental health, but has included vitamin C tablets to make the image more balanced, colourful and, ultimately, beautiful.

On the other hand, these three artists all invoke ghosts. When Kama removes colour from his images, as he has done in the new untitled series of pinhole photographs, their intrinsic darkness becomes more readily apparent. A ghostlike figure in an indeterminate landscape navigates the thin line between form and formlessness. Lajard's stick, too, has a certain eerie quality to it. It could be a shrine to an unknown deity, or a component of an unknown ritual. In Bopape's three videos, traces of self-portraiture are distorted digitally, leaving a spectral presence amidst the bright, deceptively simple (non-)narrative. The video Bird's Milk specifically relies on absence: Bopape edited out all appearances of a former lover after an unpleasant break-up. As a result, the lover becomes a ghost that hovers over the video.

The above two connotations of the title, however, are secondary to the potential as a metaphor of its more precise, scientific meaning. It is no coincidence that Bopape, Kama and Lanard have performed the role of the outsider at various stages of their lives, variously through their gender, cultural heritage, sexuality or national origin. Their biographies invoke the notion of 'être un espion' as posited by Felix Gonzalez-Torres: the outsider who notices subtleties that others may not. In chemistry, a spectral line is a dark or bright line in an otherwise continuous spectrum of light, resulting from a single photon's interaction with a quantum system. If one sees artists as these single photons, artworks become the lines that make the interaction with their environment visible. At the most fundamental level, this exhibition proposes that Bopape, Kama and Lanard produce the lines that appear in, and as a result determine, the spectrum of their generation.

Joost Bosland - Director Michael Stevenson



Dineo Seshee Bopape
The eclipse will not be visible to the naked eye
SD digital video
11 min 38 sec, sound
Edition : 3 + 1 AP
2009



Dineo Seshee Bopape
Bird's Milk
Single-channel digital video
5 min 44 sec, sound
Edition of 3 + 1AP
2009

Courtesy BENDANA|PINEL Art Contemporain



Dineo Seshee Bopape
Feelin Cosmic
SD digital video
1 min 34 sec, sound
Edition : 3 + 1 AP
2008



Lunga Kama
Ze

Four c-Prints mounted on aliminum
76.3 x 114.5 cm each

Edition : 5 + 2 AP
2009

Courtesy BENDANA|PINEL Art Contemporain



Lunga Kama
Lunga Kama I
C-print mounted on dibond
76.3 x 114.5
Edition : 5 + 2 AP
2009



Lunga Kama
Lunga Kama II
C-print mounted on dibond
76.3 x 114.5
Edition : 5 + 2 AP
2009



Lunga Kama
Untitled 1 - Untitled 12
Silver gelatin print
14.3 x 18 cm each
Edition 3 + 1 AP
2010



Jessica Lajard
Stick
Resin and polystyrene
Variable dimensions
Edition : 3 + 1 AP
2010



Jessica Lajard
Still no fucking idea
Resin and polystyrene
175 x 92 x 50 cm
Edition 5 + 2 AP
2009