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Wednesday, September 12, 2012

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The Vernissages of "La Rentree"

Vernissages were aplenty last weekend as autumn marks the start of the cultural season in Paris. I was shocked to see so many openings on the list for the 8th of September (of all dates! the first weekend in Paris) but this was also the very weekend (la rentree) that marked the change of the season. We were blessed with unusually good weather, and armed with a copy of the [Galeries Mode D'emploi](#), we headed out to see as much as we could (hot on the heels of a four-day extreme museum marathon!!!); we encountered about a dozen shows on this desultory meander, and it was very impressive in general, with at least four being noteworthy:

Highlights for me:

1. Sophie Calle (Galerie Perrotin)
2. Claire Morgan (Galerie Karsten Greve)
3. Greg Semu (Galerie Metropolis)
4. Céleste Boursier-Mougenot (Gallery Xippas)

What we saw on a walk through the art district:

1. Greg Semu's fantastic pacific islander reinterpretations/restylings of famous christian paintings
2. Aurelie Haberey's photos of a curtain (the only really boring work in the whole walk, actually)
3. Some iconic/famous portraits of Marilyn Monroe (you will have seen this before)
4. Pierre Petit's "Si de si" (a perplexing coil of led lights around some metal weighing scales)
5. Anne-Lise Broyer's cut-up mountain pictures and sketches
6. Céleste Boursier-Mougenot's sound works (bees!)
7. Sturtevant's new video works which might or might not be related to Deleuze
8. Jean-Luc Parant's taxidermied creatures cast into resin
9. Claire Morgan's amazingly detailed sculpture-installations of dead flies

10. Sophie Calle's brilliant exhibition in which she asks blind people in Istanbul to describe the last thing they saw before losing their sight forever...

Here follows a more detailed chronological account:

Greg Semu, "The Last Cannibal Supper" / La Galerie Metropolis (16 rue de Montmorency)

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 - Stone Tourism and Geological Accidents
 - Object love: "Married to the Eiffel Tower"
 - Sirens and Surveillance, Performance and Power - G...
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 - Field Recording: Paris Musique Kiosk, 9 Sept 2012
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- ▶ August (11)
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About Me



debbie ding

Debbie Ding is an artist, designer/programmer, and cartographer who likes mapping and visualising spaces - whether they be real, imaginary, or dream spaces. She develops touchscreen applications, interactive installations and teaches Actionsript (AS3). Her personal interest is in map-making, documenting and researching local histories, and reconstructing local narratives. She facilitates the Singapore Psychogeographical Society.

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The first gallery that we chanced upon was La Galerie Metropolis where we saw the works of Samoan artist Greg Semu. His work was a series of detailed photographic portraits which recalled the iconography of religious paintings from the Christian world - except that the figures have been played by Kanak tribespeople, dressed in traditional costumes which are worn during rituals and ceremonies. Apparently Semu grew up in Auckland but has resided abroad for many years. His work raises the question of how in New Zealand the occidental culture has systematically erased and eroded tradition and people's cultural roots; in his portrait of "The Last Cannibal Supper", the "cannibal" native has one last supper before rescinding his cultural identity - only to partake of the blood and the body in the eucharist?