

# MAISONNEUVE

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## Alexandre PERIGOT

press release

### ***Café des sports***

28.04 - 19.06.2004

Opening Wednesday 28th April 2004 from 6pm

Also conceived for the public space, the ***Café des sports*** is a sculpture which will appear in different places. Each site will create a sculpture inspired by the form of a bar counter using various materials. The idea is to offer the viewer the experience of the visual and physical position of drunkenness. This experiment is linked to the preoccupations of the philosopher Clément Rosset who considered drunkenness as a medium (among others) for apprehending reality.

A spectator discovering the *Café des sports* (which could be circular, square, octagonal, triangular or rectangular in form) will see the other visitors behind the bar attempting to regain their balance. Effectively, the interior platform will be configured in such a way that the visitor inside the apparatus experiences a constant state of instability. Thus the visitor will have a visual experience of drunkenness by watching those behind the bar as well as a physical experience due to the unstable platform.

Present in almost every town and country, the 'café des sports' (so-called in France) is the place which generally brings together fans of different sporting activities (when it is not the base for a sports club or association). The café is also part of a tradition which has always brought together intellectuals and artists. It was, and still is, a place of exchange and the production of works of the mind.

It is planned to create several *Café des sports* in different countries, preferably in out of the way places where the presence of this open-air bar will seem incongruous, to say the least. In each place, construction materials will be used in keeping with those of the local habitat.

For the occasion of the gallery exhibition, the *Café des sports* has invited Navinki Home Video Production (Minsk) to show a Paris preview of the film *Sloutchaj z Patsanom* (2001). The film is a political satire of the situation in eastern bloc countries, especially in Byelorussia, and throws a light on the political and financial stakes linked to alcohol and its production. It is the perfect film to welcome you to the land of drunkenness...

The *Café des sports* is about 4.5 metres in diameter and will be accompanied by a wall drawing which covers all the walls of the gallery.

Project supported by the Conseil Régional PACA, production grant 2004. With the participation of Sextant et plus, Marseille, the Ecole d'Architecture de Paris Belleville and its students, under the direction of Ludovik Bost.

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**Alexandre Perigot** (1959) lives and works in Paris and Bastia. Laureat of the Villa Kujoyama in 1998, for several years he has developed work which reveals and foils the mechanisms of star-making, identification and showbiz. Alexandre Perigot also explores the world of music and dance through installations or performances. In 2003 he showed the billboard piece *Radio Popeye* at the Venice Biennale. Prior to that he showed *Fanclubbing* in the exhibition *Let's entertain* (2000-2001). His recent solo shows have been presented, among other places, at MAMCO in Geneva in 2002 and at the FRAC Languedoc Rousillon. In 2001 he showed *Maison Témoin (Maison Dalida)* at the Pompidou Centre. He is currently preparing for a summer exhibition at Friche La Belle de Mai / Sextant et plus in Marseille (1<sup>st</sup> July – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2004) with a new production of *Maison témoin (Maison d'Elvis) - Graceland*.

The Corsica version of the *Café des sports* will be presented in Marato (South Corsica - 20166 Porticcio) on August 21, 2004.

**Press folder and visuals on request : maisonneuve@saintmonday.net**

Artistes de la galerie :

Patrick BERNIER • Rainer GANAHL • Jan KOPP • Martin LE CHEVALLIER • Olive MARTIN  
Alexandre PERIGOT • Alberto SORBELLI • Lincoln TOBIER • Claudia TRIOZZI •

programme 2004

Alexandre PERIGOT (April 28 - June 19 2004) • Liste Basel (June 15 -20) • FIAC Paris (October 21 - 25 2004) •