

**VU'**  
LA GALERIE

**DENIS DARZACQ**

*Act*

—

EXHIBITION

4th November 2011 – 7th January 2012 / Monday – Saturday, 2 pm – 7 pm



Adrien Kempa, Act, 2009-2011

## TWO UNPUBLISHED SERIES

---

*Developing his own personal work since the mid-1990's, Denis Darzacq earned international recognition with La Chute (2006) and Hyper (2007-2010). His work has been regularly exhibited in Europe, Australia and the United States.*

Darzacq's fourth personal exhibition at the Galerie VU' pursues his investigation of the body, seen as the expression of multiple ways of being in the world, expression of multiple ways of facing reality and dealing with personal, economic and social limits in order to assert its identity and its freedom.

The exhibit also shows Darzacq's continued metaphorical realism as a way to create meaning on the edge of sociological documentary and contemporary stage setting characteristic of most of his previous series.

The two new series exhibited here are the result of two very different approaches. *Act* (2009-2011), which continues the work started in *Bobigny centre ville* (2004), comes from long work in the field where Darzacq got to know the groups he wanted to photograph.

On the other hand, the staging and still lives in *Recomposition* (2010-2011) assert their abstraction, the studio work and their existence as digital collage.



Tristan Foricher, Act, 2009-2011



Groupe 02

2009-2011

## ACT

---

Started in 2009 and finalized in 2011, *Act* is the fruit of long work with handicapped persons. Though some of the subjects are also actors, athletes and dancers, each has asserted their individuality far beyond the assigned label of handicapped person. Denis Darzacq seeks to move beyond the kindly-meant compassionate attitude this subject often gives rise to while avoiding any sense of gratuitousness and voyeurism. Yet the artist is well aware of the difference created by the handicap. He even makes it visible. Sometimes in an obvious way, when he decides, in agreement with the person, to remove the wheelchair and place himself a situation that gives an unconventional image of the body.

Sometimes the difference seems infinitesimal. It yields its space to the assertion of a mental world which is particularly clear in scenes where the acting is transformed by the subjects' spontaneity and eccentricity. Like in the *La Chute* and *Hyper* series, the subjects are asked to freely perform movements that may appear meaningless, thus creating totally dreamlike situations. One example is the museum space which comes across as the projection of an interior life where wonder dominates reality, instead of the confrontation between the lofty images in the paintings and the infirm bodies of the subjects.

Though the series is driven by a certain radicality, it is more about being part of a minority and the singular forms of physical expression of people on the fringe of society than it is about handicap.



Joanne Haines

20 unpublished prints.  
Format 100 × 130 cm



Recomposition I, 01



Recomposition II, 15

2010-2011

## RECOMPOSITION I & RECOMPOSITION II

The digital collages in the *Recomposition I* and *II* series, made from photographs shot in the studio, pursue Denis Darzacq's critique of the consumer society. In *Recomposition I*, Darzacq hybridizes bodies, cardboard boxes and parts of Ikea chairs. Packaging and parts proliferate, both hideous and appealing, threatening and protective. The still lives in *Recomposition II* are loaded with pictorial and sculptural reminiscence. They confer total visual autonomy to these fragments of mass-consumption products.

20 prints, including 15 unpublished.

Formats 65 × 45 cm  
et 113 × 76 cm

## BIOGRAPHIE

---

Born in 1961 in Paris. Lives in Paris.

A 1985 graduate of the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, Denis Darzacq began his career photographing the French rock scene, and became stills photographer on several feature films (Satyajit Ray, Jacques Rivette, Chantal Ackerman). He began exhibiting his work in 1994. In 1999 the French Ministry of Culture commissioned work on youth in France.

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS (Since 2002)

#### 2011

*Figures libres*, Espace d'art contemporain H2M, Bourg-en-Bresse

*Hyper*, Contact Photography Festival, Ottawa

*La Chute*, Alliance Française, Buenos Aires

*La Chute*, Contact Photo Festival, Alliance Française, Toronto

#### 2010

*La Chute*, Sedan Stadium, Sedan

*Ici et maintenant*, Hôtel Fontfreyde, Centre photographique, Clermont-Ferrand

*Hyper*, Laurence Miller Gallery, New York

*Denis Darzacq*, Forum Meyrin, Genève

#### 2009

*Hyper*, Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie, Arles

*Denis Darzacq*, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney

*Denis Darzacq*, Le Château d'eau, Toulouse

*Langage des corps*, *Denis Darzacq*, La galerie du Théâtre, La passerelle, Gap

#### 2008

*La Chute et Bobigny Centre Ville*, Alliance Française, New-York

*Denis Darzacq*, Pavillon Carré de Baudouin, Paris

*Hyper et Casques*, Perth Centre for Photography, Fofofreo Festival

*La Chute*, Le Quartz, Brest

#### 2007

*La Chute*, de Soto Gallery, Los Angeles

*La Chute*, Le Lieu Unique, Quinzaine Photographique Nantaise, Nantes

*La Chute*, Art Rock, Saint-Brieuc

*La Chute et Bobigny Centre Ville*, Galerie VU', Paris

*Hyper*, Pôle image Haute-Normandie, Rouen

#### 2005

*Bobigny Centre Ville*, Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie, Arles

#### 2004

*Nu et Fakestars*, Galerie VU', Paris

*Nu*, Galerie Le Bleu du Ciel, Lyon

#### 2002

*Ensembles*, Festival Nicéphore + 162, Clermont-Ferrand

*Only Heaven*, Silk-Road Gallery, Teheran

*Ensembles*, Van Kranendonk Gallery, La Haye

*Ensembles*, Galerie VU', Paris

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS (Since 2001)

#### 2011

*Sale = Happiness*, Galerie Axel Obiger, Berlin

*Modèle Danse*, Arsenal, Metz

*Auf die Plätze. Sport und Gesellschaft*, Deutschen Hygiene-Museum, Dresde

#### 2010

*Inter-Cool 3.0 : Jugend Bild Medien*, Dortmunder U, Dortmund

*Tilt*, Photofestival, Breda

*Dancing on the ceiling*, Art & Zero Gravity, EMPAC, New York

Biennale Internationale de l'image de Luang Prabang, Laos

*Summer*, Goddard de Fiddes Gallery, Perth

*Le piéton de Paris*, Campinas, Brasil

*Déjà vu*, Galerie Michel Journiac, Université Paris 1 Sorbonne

Art Basel, Galerie de Multiples

Art Paris, Galerie VU'

Madrid Photo, Galerie VU', Laurence Miller Gallery

Paris Photo, Galerie VU', Paris

AIPAD, Laurence Miller Gallery, New York

#### 2009

*A view of Contemporary Photography*, Ambient Art Project, Las Vegas

*Djan*, Galerie VU', Paris

*Populaire-Populaire*, Centre d'Arts Plastiques, Saint-Fons

Paris Photo, Galerie VU', Paris

#### 2008

*Art, Price and Value*, Palazzo Strozzi, Firenze

*Urbanités*, Galerie Les Filles du Calvaire, Paris

*Portrait et paysage du 21 siècle*, Espace Culturel ING, Bruxelles

*La Grande Traversée / Horizons photographiques*, Musée du

Bas-Saint-Laurent, Rivière-du-Loup

*7 ans de réflexion*, Musée Nicéphore Niépce, Chalon-sur-Saône

*Le bruissement des images*, Centre Photographique d'Île de France, Pontault-Combault

#### 2007

*Le dernier jour de l'été*, Les Salaisons, Romainville

*Génération*, Galerie Les Filles du Calvaire, Bruxelles

*En quête d'identité*, Centre Photographique d'Île de France, Pontault-Combault

#### 2006

*La région humaine*, Septembre de la photographie, Musée d'art contemporain, Lyon

#### 2004

Encontros de Imagem, Braga

#### 2002

*Le bâti et le vivant*, Chapelle du Rham, Luxembourg.

*Photographie Européenne*, Museum of Modern Art, Teheran

Photo festival, Nijni-Novgorod, Russia

#### 2001

Photo festival, Pingyao, China

*Sense of Space*, Groningen, Netherland

*Prix Altadis*, Helga de Alvear Gallery, Madrid, Spain

*Jeunes en l'an 2000*, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris

*Prix Altadis*, Galerie Durand-Dessert, Paris

---

**RESIDENCES** (since 2006)
**2011**

Bourg-en-Bresse  
Bradford, avec le soutien de Arts Council England  
The Fountainhead Residency, Miami

**2010**

Bradford, avec le soutien de Arts Council England  
Commande du Musée Nicépore Niépce, Chalon-sur-Saône  
Commande de la Ville de Clermont-Ferrand  
Commande du Centre Atlantique de la Photographie, Brest

**2009**

Résidence d'artiste, Centre Photographique d'Ile-de-France,  
Pontault-Combault

**2008**

*Des clics et des classes*, Centre Photographique d'Ile-de-France,  
Pontault-Combault

**2007**

*Le quartier Euro-méditerranée*, Fonds National d'Art Contemporain et la Ville de Marseille  
*Hyper*, Pôle image Haute-Normandie, Rouen  
*Un artiste, une classe*, Lycée Jacques Prévert, Pont-Audemer,  
Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Haute-Normandie

**2006**

*Le football féminin*, *Les casques de Thouars*, École de la critique,  
Thouars

---

**PRIZES**
**2007**

World Press Photo, 1<sup>er</sup> Prix 'stories', Catégorie Arts & Entertainment pour *La Chute*

**2000**

Prix Altadis

---

**INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS**

Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges-Pompidou, Paris  
Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Paris  
Cité Nationale de l'Histoire de l'Immigration, Paris  
Société Générale  
Fondation Altadis, Paris  
Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain de Haute Normandie,  
Sotteville-lès-Rouen  
Musée Nicéphore Niépce, Chalon-sur-Saône  
Galerie du Château d'eau, Toulouse  
Caldic Collection, Rotterdam  
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City

---

**EDITIONS**

*Hyper*, Filigranes, 2009

*La Chute*, Filigranes, 2007

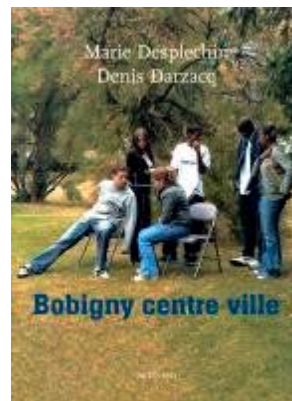
*Bobigny centre ville*, Texte de Marie Desplechin, Actes Sud, 2006

*Le ciel étoilé au dessus de ma tête*, Janvier/Léo Scheer, 2004

*À quatorze kilomètres d'Auxerre*, Atlantica, 2004

*Ensembles 1997-2000*, Actes Sud/Prix Altadis, 2000

*Only Heaven*, Galerie du Jour, Paris, 1997



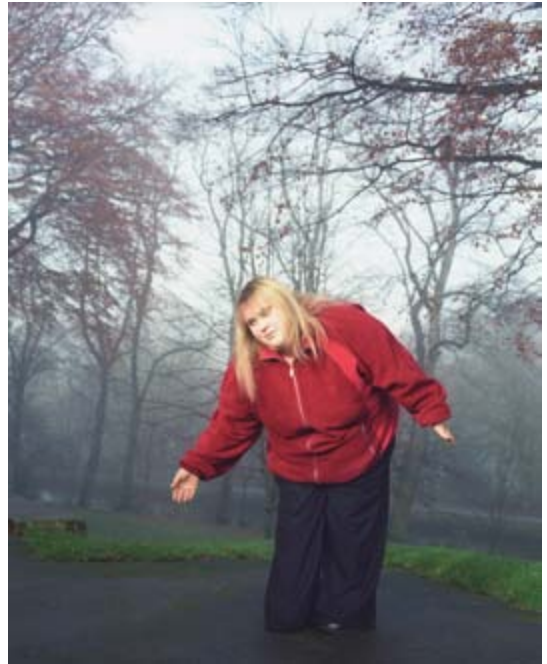
# IMAGES FOR PRESS 1/2

---

## ACT

2009-2011

- 1. Alex Scholefield
- 2. Adrien Kempa
- 3. Tristan Foricher
- 4. Joanne Haines
- 5. Groupe 02
- 6. Brian Wakeling



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

# IMAGES FOR PRESS 2/2

---

## RECOMPOSITION

2010-2011

- 7. Recomposition I, 12
- 8. Recomposition I, 01
- 9. Recomposition II, 15



7.



8.



9.



THE BOOK : RELEASED NOVEMBER 23

---

## ACT

Text by Michel Frizot

Interview of Denis Darzacq by Virginie Chardin

Editor : Actes Sud

138 pages

35 euros

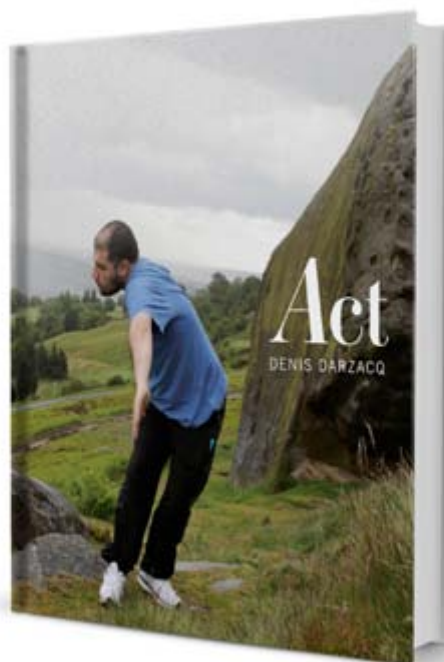
Available at the Galerie VU'

### Contact press Actes Sud

Nathalie Baravian

n.baravian@actes-sud.fr

T : 01 55 42 63 08



## VU'WORKSHOPS

BY DENIS DARZACQ

*Man in the City*

---

FRIDAY 18, SATURDAY 19 AND SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2011

---

Frame, position of the bodies, tension. The participants will face collectively and individually a group of photographic exercises that will lead to a reflexion on the exchanges between the intimate sphere, frame of the man and the public sphere, frame of the city. Far from Photoshop, the instant or still photography is highlighting the need of reciprocation between the photographer and the model. This experimentation of the real that is the very definition of the photography will always have this frantic city as a canvas.

This workshop will be lead in French

Further informations at:

<http://www.agencevu.com/workshops>



# VU'

## LA GALERIE

Hôtel Paul Delaroche 58 rue Saint-Lazare 75009 Paris	T +33 1 53 01 85 81 F +33 1 53 01 85 80	www.galerievu.com galerievu@abvent.fr
---	--	--

## DENIS DARZACQ

CEO  
**XAVIER SOULE**

Art Dealers

**GILOU LE GRUIEC**

T : +33 1 53 01 85 81  
gilou@abvent.fr

**ÉTIENNE HATT**

T : +33 1 53 01 85 81  
hatt@abvent.fr

**SIDONIE GAYCHET**

T : +33 1 53 01 85 85  
gaychet@abvent.fr

Project manager

**CHRISTOPHE SOULE**

T : +33 1 53 01 85 81  
soule-venner@abvent.fr

Communication Director

**BERNADETTE SABATHIER**

T : +33 1 53 01 05 11  
sabathier@abvent.fr

Communication Manager

**CLARA FOLTZ**

T : +33 1 53 01 05 13  
foltz@abvent.fr