



le réseau mondial



Salla Tykkä. «Lasso». 2000. Vidéo 35 mm. 3'48". (Court. S. Tykkä / Y. Lambert)

■ Si l'on se tient aux dernières nouvelles mondaines de Londres, le grand événement artistique récent est l'ouverture d'un bâtiment appelé Sketch, sur la très chic Conduit Street, consacré à la gastronomie, à la branchitude mais aussi à la création. Dans un contexte de design tarabiscoté, de fond de musique électronique ou de jazz, et de familiques plats signés Gagnère, installations et vidéos diffusent le message de la modernité. L'art contemporain est devenu un gage de bon ton et ça n'est pas un hasard si, en France, l'un des magazines qui traite le plus du sujet est *Vogue*, journal de mode. Mais, pour revenir à Londres, non loin du nouveau restaurant géant, un véritable événement a eu lieu le 24 février dernier. Ce jour-là a ouvert une nouvelle galerie de niveau international qui devrait prendre la

Donald Judd, pour l'inauguration, quelques poids lourds de l'art contemporain, tels que Cindy Sherman, Barbara Kruger, Christopher Wool, mais aussi Georges Condo. «La fermeture de D'Offay a entraîné un déficit de dynamisme de la place londonienne face au reste de l'échiquier international. Nous voulons montrer sur le long terme des artistes que nous apprécions sans nous soumettre à la mode», commente Simon Lee. À Londres encore, le très puissant New-Yorkais Larry Gagosian inaugurera l'année prochaine un nouvel espace de 3 000 mètres carrés. Faisant tout aussi fi de la crise, le Français Yvon Lambert ouvrira à New York, en mai prochain, un espace de 450 mètres carrés à Chelsea. «C'est le rêve de n'importe quel marchand. J'y pensais depuis longtemps. Le niveau d'intérêt des musées et des collectionneurs y est incomparable». Là, il n'exposera aucun de ses artistes phares comme Jenny Holzer ou Douglas Gordon. «Je montrerai ce qu'on ne voit pas là bas, Claude Lévèque, Salla Tykkä, Bertrand Lavier ou Koo Jeong-a...». À Paris, depuis septembre 2002, rue de Turenne, Claudia Cargneli, ex-galerie Anax de Genève, associée à un financier et à un gestionnaire, consacre un espace de 900 mètres carrés, Cosmic Galerie, à la création actuelle. Elle propose des stars consacrées de l'art contemporain ou en voie de l'être, de Matt Collishaw à Vanessa Beecroft. Conclusion? The Germans and Americans dream of being represented in London, the French hanker after New York and the Swiss have their eyes on Paris. Okay, but what, in today's uncertain economic circumstances, is to be gained from showing mainly recognized artists who are already prominent on the international circuit? Have not these professionals themselves told us that nowadays collectors and curators alike all travel pretty much all over? What is the point of trying to become a new coordinate on the global map? The answer lies in the fact that art dealing, and especially contemporary art dealing, is very often a matter of people and places. Of selling and exhibiting in the right place at the right time. ■

Bertrand Lavier or Koo Jeong-a. "Meanwhile, not far from Lambert's Paris space, Claudia Cargneli, formerly of Geneva's Galerie Annalix, has, in partnership with a financier and a manager, opened a 9,000 square-foot contemporary art space, Cosmic Galerie. Its roster features established and rising artists such as Matt Collishaw and Vanessa Beecroft. Conclusion? The Germans and Americans dream of being represented in London, the French hanker after New York and the Swiss have their eyes on Paris. Okay, but what, in today's uncertain economic circumstances, is to be gained from showing mainly recognized artists who are already prominent on the international circuit? Have not these professionals themselves told us that nowadays collectors and curators alike all travel pretty much all over? What is the point of trying to become a new coordinate on the global map? The answer lies in the fact that art dealing, and especially contemporary art dealing, is very often a matter of people and places. Of selling and exhibiting in the right place at the right time. ■

Translation, C. Penwarden

Gallery Geography

■ Word of (top-dollar) mouth is that the latest arty-social event in London is the opening of a building called "Sketch" on Conduit Street, a very chic strip devoted to gastronomy, hipness and, of course, art. Here, against a background of flash design, electronic and jazz music and starvation rations bearing the imprimatur of French culinary créateur Pierre Gagnaire, installations and videos declare that This is Now (or vice versa). Contemporary art, you see, is the must-have accessory, which is surely why *Vogue* gives it so much space. But, to get back to London, a genuine art-world event took place near the eaterie on February 24. This was the opening of the new world-class gallery destined to fill the gap left by the defunct Antony D'Offay. Under the lawyer-like collective moniker of Spruth, Magers, Lee (the names of the two German and one English founder, Simon Lee being ex-D'Offay and formerly an independent broker), the gallery inaugurated its 3,500 square-foot space with a show featuring such heavyweights as

Cindy Sherman, Barbara Kruger, Christopher Wool and George Condo. In a statement, Simon Lee pointed to London's relative loss of dynamism on the international scene as a result of the D'Offay closure and spoke of SML's plans to "exhibit over the long term artists that we like, without bowing to the dictates of fashion." Next year, the local scene will gain further weight from the opening of a 30,000 square-foot space owned by the powerful NYC-based Gagosian. Crossing the Atlantic in the other direction, but also defying the economic trends, the French gallerist Yvon Lambert will be opening his own New York space in May. "This is something that any dealer dreams of doing. I have been thinking about it for years. The level of interest from museums and collectors there is unique." Rather than the international headliners from his stable, like Jenny Holzer or Douglas Gordon, Lambert's new space will show "only the people that don't get seen over there: Claude Lévèque, Salla Tykkä,