



Tell me



the story  
of all these  
things.

Beginning  
wherever

you wish, tell  
even us.

Exhibition at Villa Vassiliev from January 14 to March 18, 2017  
Opening on January 14 from 2 to 9 pm

With / **Katinka Bock, Vittorio Cavallini, León Ferrari, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Sojung Jun, Rose Lowder, Huda Lutfi, Ernesto Oroza, Somnath Mukherjee, Remzi Raşa and Lyno Vuth**

Curators / **Mélanie Bouteloup et Victorine Grataloup**

# TELL ME THE STORY OF ALL THESE THINGS. BEGINNING WHEREVER YOU WISH, TELL EVEN US.

*Tell me the story of all these things. Beginning wherever you wish, tell even us.* is the inaugural exhibition of the *Autohistorias* program, unfolding in 2017 across **Bétonsalon** and **Villa Vassilieff**.

The exhibition borrows its title from *Dictée*, an experimental autobiographical novel written by **Theresa Hak Kyung Cha** in 1982. In this text, the Korean artist evoked her experience of exile. She used different languages, combining text and image in a variety of narrative registers, telling the story of women associated with the Nine Muses of Greek mythology. *Tell me the story of all these things* revolves around **Sojung Jun**, Pernod Ricard Fellow in residence at Villa Vassilieff. Using *Dictée* as an important resource for inspiration, the exhibition echoes this entanglement of individual narratives of circulation and migration. Addressing issues of displacement, it questions thresholds between inside and outside, distance and proximity, and interrogates feelings associated with multiple identities.

The exhibition starts in a nook on Villa Vassilieff's ground floor: videos by Sojung Jun, drawing micro-narratives of marginal individuals and threatened local traditions, are presented along a selection of works by experimental filmmaker **Rose Lowder**. These films alternate between experiments on the film roll itself, colorful and graphic play-on-shapes, and slightly more documentary observations on the passing of time.

Rose Lowder and Sojung Jun both use textual elements in the composition of

their moving images, ranging from simple letters used as graphic elements to literary quotations. The exhibition extends and propagates this work of intertextual weaving on the first floor of the Villa, especially through **Bétonsalon's** singular artwork-library. In 2009, **Katinka Bock** had disseminated a hundred hand-molded bricks near the art center, which visitors could take away in exchange for the gift of a book to **Bétonsalon**, to be picked from the "Section 7 Books" selection of the independent art bookstore *castillo/ corrales*. A brick found in the art center's storage space here testifies to this collaborative process of knowledge circulation. Since 2009 the library expanded considerably, notably with books related to Sojung Jun's ongoing research on synaesthesia.

Heliographies by **León Ferrari**, featuring rhizomatic compositions or "architectures of madness" in the words of the artist, echo the web of references offered by the library and exhibition. This series was composed during the dictatorship in Argentina, while León Ferrari was in exile in Brazil, and diverted codes of geometric abstraction into tragic labyrinths without a way out.

Villa Vassilieff offered designer and artist **Vittorio Cavallini** to take over its space, turning the exhibition into a hospitable and leisurely place. Inviting visitors to read, this environment is akin to the domestic setting offered by Marie Vassilieff at the beginning of the 20th century. Downstairs, other pieces of furniture were designed by the Cuban artist **Ernesto Oroza**, Pernod Ricard Fellow 2016.

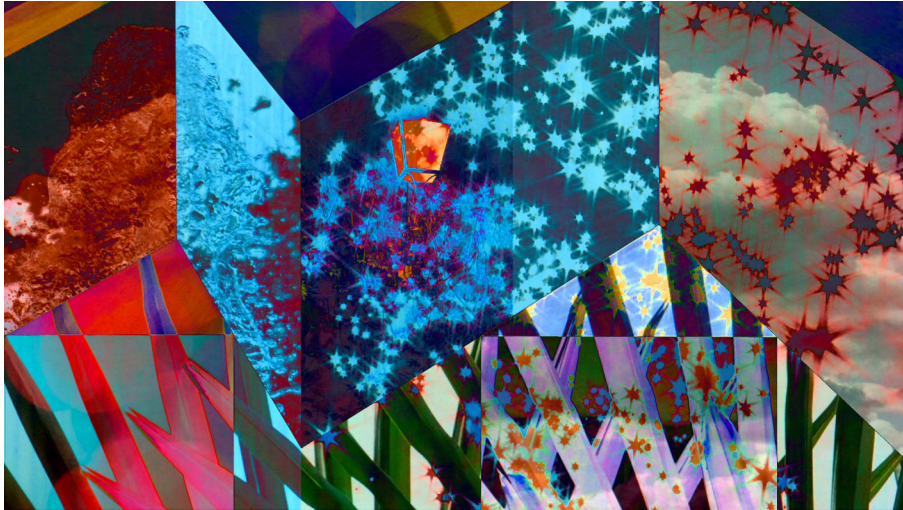
*Tell me the story of all these things* introduces odd individual trajectories, shaping perpetually shifting identities. From 1972 to 1982, **Remzi Raşa** relentlessly painted La Fournache, a mountain in the Drôme region of France, which reminded him of his native Kurdistan. Remzi Raşa was trained in painting at the School of Fine Arts in Istanbul by the French painter Leopold Levy – photographed by Marc Vaux – who was called there by the former President of the Republic of Turkey Mustafa Kemal Atatürk to “Westernize” Turkish painting. Remzi Raşa however developed his own language, nourishing himself from various influences: *Deux Cultures* and its background reminding of Iznik ceramics associate the composition of a still life with the decorative complexity of Ottoman Islamic different regions of the world on an individual level is at the heart of the research project presented by Vuth Lyno, who worked on the specific situation of the UNTAC

(United Nation Transitional Authority of Cambodia) considered as a metaphor of the effect produced by external forces on the journey of individuals.

Translocal invention of forms is all the more necessary in times of conflict, as acts of resistance. **Huda Lutfi** questioned the metamorphosis of Cairo’s multiculturalism but also the place of her own work as an artist since she began to include elements photographed on the street in her works during the 2011 Egyptian revolution. Her sculptures, installations, and collages take part in a necessary deconstruction of clichés on Egypt, and question the privilege of the gaze in the eminently political space that is the public space.

**Mélanie Bouteloup  
and Victorine Grataloup**

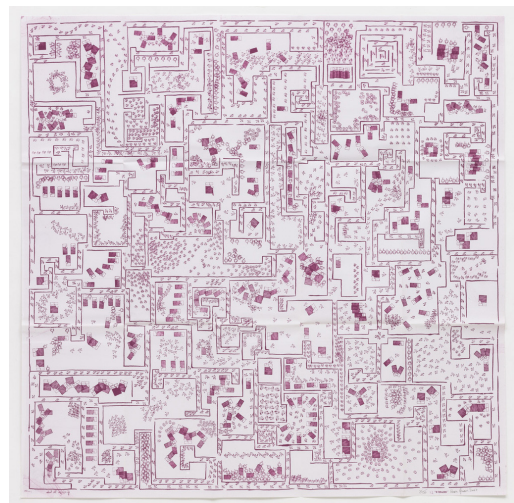
# PRESS PICTURES



Sojung Jun, *The Twelve Rooms*, 2014, video, sound, color, HD, 2014.  
Courtesy of the artist.



Remzi Raşa, *Deux Cultures*, oil on canvas, 1980.  
Courtesy of the Estate Remzi Raşa



León Ferrari, *Cidade*, heliographies on paper, 1980 / digital print, 2008, collection of Bétonsalon - Center for Art & Research, Paris. Courtesy of the Estate León Ferrari and Bétonsalon - Center for Art & Research.



Documentation images of the project *Shared Letters* by Katinka Bock in collaboration with castillo/corrales in Bétonsalon -, Paris, 2013. Courtesy of the artist and Bétonsalon - Center for Art & Research.

## **LA VILLA VASSILLIEFF**

Villa Vassilieff, a cultural establishment owned by the City of Paris, is located in the heart of Montparnasse, on the site of Marie Vassilieff's former studio, which until 2013 housed the Musée du Montparnasse. It is the second site of activities run by Bétonsalon – Center for art and research. Villa Vassilieff is conceived as a place for working and living, where to stimulate the blossoming of ideas, encounters and the sharing of knowledge. Through various grants offered in partnership with different institutions, numerous artists and researchers are invited to come in residency to reconnect with Montparnasse's history from a contemporary perspective. Pernod Ricard, its leading sponsor, has joined forces with Villa Vassilieff to create the Pernod Ricard Fellowship: a grant aimed at supporting four international artists, curators and researchers in residence every year in the Villa's studio.

## **BÉTONSALON - CENTER FOR ART AND RESEARCH**

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research strives to develop a space where to reflect on and in society, and works at the confluence of art and university research with the ambition to question normalized forms of production, classification and distribution of knowledge. The center of art and research is located in the 13th district of Paris, integrated into the site of the University Paris Diderot - Paris 7. The activities of Bétonsalon develop in a process-based, collaborative and discursive manner, following different time spans, in cooperation with various local, national and international organizations, and present themselves under different forms. Exhibitions are enriched by different associated events (workshops, conferences, performances, round table discussions...). Seminars and workshops are organized in collaboration with teachers from the University Paris 7. Offsite research projects are led in partnership with other institutions and residency programs are offered for researchers, artists and curator. Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2014.

## ADVISORY BOARD

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**Nicole da Costa**, Director of Île-de-France Regional Board of Cultural Affairs - Ministry of Culture and Communication

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**Pierre Vialle**, adjunct director, administrator

### Site Villa Vassilieff

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**Camille Chenais**, project coordinator

**Victorine Grataloup**, project coordinator

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**Caroline Honorien**, assistant

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**Margaux Paturel**, project coordinator

**Hélène Maes**, assistant

**Laura Pouppeville**, assistant

## PARTNERS

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is supported by the City of Paris, the Paris Diderot University - Paris 7, the Île-de-France Regional Board of Cultural Affairs - Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Île-de-France Region and Leroy Merlin - Quai d'Ivry.

The Académie vivante is supported by the Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso.

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is a member of Tram, réseau art contemporain Paris / Île-de-France and of d.c.a / association française de développement des centres d'art.

The Villa Vassilieff receives support from public and private partners, first and foremost from the City of Paris, the Île-de-France Region and Pernod Ricard, its leading sponsor. The Villa Vassilieff has developed also partnerships with the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques, the Collège d'études mondiales of the Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme, the Goethe Institut or the Cité Internationale des arts

## ACCESS

FREE ADMISSION

Tuesday - Saturday from 11am to 7pm

Villa Marie Vassilieff  
Chemin de Montparnasse  
21 avenue du Maine  
75015 Paris

Métro 4, 6, 12, 13,  
stop Montparnasse-Bienvenüe  
(exit 2 - Place Bienvenüe)

Bus 58, 91, 92, 94, 95,  
stop Gare Montparnasse  
Bus 28, 82, 89, 92, 96,  
stop Place du 18 juin 1940 - Rue de l'Arrivée  
Bus 89, stop Maine-Vaugirard



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