



« Drawing by Walking »

By Patrice Balvay



Drawing by Walking, TWS Residency



D.b.W VII - Kamakura Hokokuji

« Drawing by Walking »

By Patrice Balvay

Patrice Balvay is a French artist who lives and works in le Havre. He draws on a large scale so as to use his whole body and to immerse the viewer. During his five week residency at Tokyo Wonder Site, funded by the GIP Le Havre 2017 (Groupement d'Intérêt Public Le Havre 2017), he created sixteen large drawings. Their format (2 x 1.1meters) corresponds to the width of the paper roll selected and to the height of the wall on which the sheet is pinned. Each drawing is the transcript of a particular walk. Japan, a country renowned for its drawings, was an obvious choice of destination. He chose Tokyo for its size and vastness.

More informations about the residency program on goo.gl/LSNXxG et goo.gl/DP9p6w



Drawing by Walking, TWS Residency



D.b.W XIV - Kamakura Engakuji

Patrice Balvay describes his residency between May and June 2016 as follows:

« The alternation between walking and drawing, like the two different parts of one breath, is the central idea of this project. Maps of different areas of Tokyo, bought near Nihonbashi, allowed me to precisely locate each street where I found myself and so to wander without getting lost. In each neighborhood I walked till exhaustion, noting on the map what I saw, what I was thinking. I memorised the arrangements of lines, relationships between colours. The next day, in the workshop of Sumida-ku, I released the memory and my impressions onto the paper. The starting point of a drawing is often a simple gesture. Once the line is thrown onto the paper, I try to maintain the necessity of the line and to make it as alive as possible. I choose a pressure between the paper and the pencil which prevents me from fully controlling the drawing, and so I feel that my hand is following more than guiding. Each time the pencil lead sticks, deviates or is squashed, the line starts up again. The impact of the pencil on the paper, which can even go as far as perforating it or breaking the pencil lead, both causes and reflects the intense emotion which runs through me as I draw. By combining these provoked accidents, the drawing is almost created not on purpose. I often only stopped drawing at nightfall when I could no longer see anything. The spirituality encountered in the temples of Engakuji and Kenchoji marked me deeply. The walks in Kamakura and its surroundings inspired me as much as the variety of districts in Tokyo and these two places sometimes unwittingly overlapped in the same drawing. I had a very physical relationship with the city and the landscape. »

In Japan, Patrice Balvay drew as though walking, with a predefined frame in time and space. Thus the movement of the body and its duration determined the very shape of his drawings. Patrice Balvay used these constraints as a means of attaining true freedom.



Drawing by Walking, TWS Residency



Drawing by Walking X - Shibuyaku



Drawing by Walking XIII - Shinjuku



Drawing by Walking XVI - Sumidaku



Drawing by Walking XV - Kamakura - Hasedera

Patrice Balvay - Born in november 8th 1968 in Mâcon

Exhibitions

- 2016 After Frenhofer, ESADHaR, Le Havre
Open Studio, Tokyo Wonder Site, Japan
- 2015 Fabriquer le dessin, Frac Haute-Normandie, Sotteville-les-Rouen
- 2014 Méduses, Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Le Havre
- 2013 Code Noir, FRAC Haute-Normandie, Sotteville-les-Rouen
Ligatures, La Glacière, Le Havre
Les Médusés, La Forme, Le Havre
- 2012 De la main à la peau, PARCC Paris-Cardiovascular research Center
- 2010 Annonciations, chez Laurent C, Rouen
- 2009 Pleins feux, Veules les Roses
(des)accords communs, dessins de la collection du Frac Haute-Normandie, Jumièges
- 2008 Eglise du Prieuré de Gravelle, Le Havre
Biennale off, Dock café, Le Havre
Abbaye de Jumièges
Galerie Akié Arichi, Paris
- 2007 Mine de rien, Espace d'art contemporain 2angles, Flers
Musée du Prieuré, Harfleur
- 2006 Grain/Pixel, Traversée d'art, espace 1789, Saint-Ouen
Biennale off, Dock café, Le Havre
Galerie Plume, Paris
Les iconoclasses 8, Galerie Duchamp, Yvetot
Galerie d'art contemporain, Chamalières
- 2005 La biennale d'Issy, musée de la carte à jouer, Issy-les-Moulineaux
- 2004 Prix Marin, Galerie Julio Gonzalez, Arcueil.
- 2003 Galerie Ipso-Facto, Nantes
L'antichambre, Galerie Oncle Ben, Le Havre
- 2002 La vie est belle. Regard sur la jeune génération, FRAC Haute-Normandie

Acquisitions

- 2010 Collection de dessins du FRAC Haute-Normandie
2014 Collections du Muséum d'histoire naturelle du Havre

Contact

Patrice Balvay
1bis rue du docteur Dufour
FR-76600 Le Havre

t - +33 (0)6 20 62 67 33
m - pbalvay@gmail.com
w - www.balvay.fr

