GILBERT POISSANT

L’objet et le territoire

Spanning four decades, Gilbert Poissant’s artistic output is imposing and polymorphic. Trained as a ceramicist, sculptor and muralist, Poissant draws his inspiration from the fields of design and architecture, acutely exploring the issues raised by the hybridization of artistic disciplines.

The two-part exhibition *L’objet et le territoire* takes stock of the diverse modes

of expression that Poissant has developed around both his ceramics practice and

his astonishing personal collection of everyday objects, brought together here in

*La collection*, a major work begun in 2005. Using disciplined methods stemming from

a self-designed system of categorization, Poissant transforms, reinterprets, and renews these objects through repeated gestures and rituals. Time here takes on great importance; the stretched-out, slow and methodical kind of time engendered by

the repeated gesture, not unlike the time of the skilful artist/craftsperson.

At Plein sud, Gilbert Poissant reinterprets territory, a concept at the heart of his practice, through the use of topographic maps of his home region and memories of certain legends from childhood. In his graphic interventions, he employs cut-up and collage techniques, proposing a new history of territory, a sort of atlas of the imaginary. Icons taken from different periods of his career infiltrate semi-fictional mappings that not only depict his own world, but also form an architectonic evocation of physical, social and cultural phenomena within an exhilarating space of belonging.

At EXPRESSION, Poissant probes the perceptual and interactive possibilities inherent to the language of objects, proposing numerous iterations of the system stemming from *Le jeu du collectionneur*, including collages, inkjet prints, porcelain murals, object installations, scale models and boxes. Objects and icons are here reduced to their essential forms, where they become a sort of alphabet, a vast catalogue of visual and lexical signs that transform sculptural and architecturalized space into a place of open and dynamic dialogue.

Gilbert Poissant’s vocabulary recounts a lifetime’s worth of accumulation, his own lifetime’s, and brings together fragments of the history of the world, our world.

Mona Hakim

Guest curator