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## **communiqué de presse**

### **Objects of a Revolution**

**Dan Halter, Glenda Léon, Trokon Nagbe,  
Jackie Nickerson, Nnenna Okore, Rowan Smith**

Vernissage 17 janvier 18h - 21h  
Exposition 17 janvier - 28 février 2009



Le monde change. Les équilibres géopolitiques se déplacent, le pouvoir politico-économique est redistribué, de nouveaux pouvoirs émergent. Aujourd'hui, un nouvel ordre mondial prend forme et, avec lui, un nouvel ordre social, politique et culturel.

Cela est récurrent dans l'histoire de l'Humanité. Les nouvelles ères portent en elles les nouvelles hégémonies issues de la lutte des civilisations. Nous sommes aujourd'hui à l'un de ces moments-clés. Dans ce monde globalisé où les délimitations frontières deviennent imperceptibles, une lutte fait rage entre l'Est et l'Ouest, le Nord et le Sud ou le monde développé et le monde en développement.

Les armes ont peut-être changées – l'épée et le bouclier sont remplacés par les ressources et les technologies, mais les raisons du combat et le trophée des vainqueurs restent inchangés.

Ce que seront les modèles dominants des prochaines décennies dépend plus de cette guerre post-moderne et de l'influence qu'elle a sur chacune de nos sociétés, que du pouvoir que nous avons à l'intérieur de nos sociétés pour construire notre destinée. L'identité, la consommation, les croyances et toutes ces fibres essentielles qui nous constituent sont aujourd'hui soumises à des forces extérieures.

Les nations et les communautés sont aujourd'hui des sphères qui s'interpénètrent, ce qui a altéré leurs évolutions autonomes. Cette infiltration mutuelle a transformé le monde. La mondialisation au sens large, aidée par la technologie, a été un catalyseur de la vertigineuse accélération de ce processus. Depuis l'Europe, ce qui est apparu à certains comme un processus de "métissage" pacifique se révèle insidieux. Des facettes plus hostiles le rapprochent de ses origines, à chercher dans les hauts-faits d'Alexandre, de Colomb ou de Livingstone.

Comment interpréter cette nouvelle cartographie où les communautés d'Afrique, d'Asie et d'Amérique Latine se transforment et où les nations découpées arbitrairement s'établissent en superpouvoirs? Comment extrapoler le paysage de demain?

Quand leur intuition émotionnelle, leur intégrité intellectuelle et leur sens critique sont sans compromis, les artistes interprètent de manière prophétique leur environnement naturel, les codes sociaux et la condition humaine. Les artistes de cette exposition ont tous une compréhension lucide de notre présent et de notre passé. Ainsi ont-ils des intuitions visionnaires en ce qui concerne notre futur. À travers les oeuvres présentées, ils donnent leur vision de la révolution qui balaye aujourd'hui le statu quo géopolitique et suggèrent les perspectives à venir. Le monde change.

Patrick Landi

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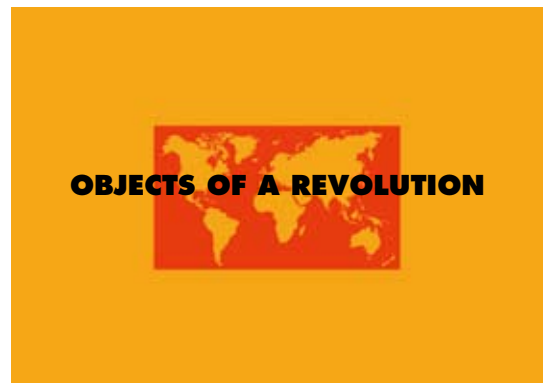
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## **press release**

### **Objects of a Revolution**

**Dan Halter, Glenda Léon, Trokon Nagbe,  
Jackie Nickerson, Nnenna Okore, Rowan Smith**

Opening 17 January 6 - 9 pm  
Exhibition 17 January - 28 February 2009



The world is changing. Geopolitical balances are shifting, economic and political power is being redistributed, new powers are emerging. Today a new world order is taking form bringing with it new social, political and cultural order.

Hindsight teaches us that this is a reoccurrence in the History of man kind. New eras bring with them new hegemonies issued from the struggle of civilizations. It has become apparent that Today is such a time, in this globalized world where delineations have become increasingly unperceivable the struggle between the east and the west, the north and the south or simply the developed and developing world is raging.

The rules of engagement may have changed the sword and the shield replaced by resources and technology but the purpose of the fight and the prize of victory are unaltered.

What will be prevailing models in the next decades depends much more so on this post modern warfare and the exogenous influences it bears on each of our individual societies than the power we have within our societies to shape our on destiny. Identity, consumption, beliefs and all the very basic and essential fibers of our construct are today all contingent on alien forces.

Nations and communities have reciprocally penetrated each other's spheres and altered autonomous evolution paths. This mutual infiltration has transformed our world and globalization in its most ample definition, aided by technology, has been a catalyst for the vertiginous acceleration of this process. From a Eurocentric perspective what has seemed to most in contemporary times a peaceful process of "métissage" is revealing insidious and hostile facets more akin to its genesis rooted in the deeds of Alexandre, Columbus or Livingstone.

How do we interpret this new cartography where communities from Africa, Asia and Latin America are transforming and nations culled in those continents are shaping into super-powers? How do we extrapolate the landscape of tomorrow?

When their emotional intuition, intellectual integrity and critical sense are uncompromised, artists' interpretation of the natural environment, of social codes and of the human condition, can produce work of great prophetic value. The Artists exhibiting in this show all have lucid understanding of our present and past and thus produce visionary intuitions of our future. The works they exhibit are their reflection on the revolution in the geopolitical status quo and their suggestion of things to be. The world is changing.

Patrick Landi

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**Glenda Leon, Mundo masticado**, 2008, chewing gum maché sur papier photo, 12 x 17 cm



**Dan Halter, Safe as Fuck**, 2007, ruban AIDS et aiguilles hypodermiques sur carton, 81 x 101 cm, Edition de 5



**Nnenna Okore, Rope entangled**, 2008, Papier et corde en mannille, 60 x 72 x 12 cm



**Jackie Nickerson, Jennifer, Farm worker, Nyabira, Zimbabwe**, 1997, Tirage Lambda, 155 x 124 cm, Edition de 6



**Trokon Nagbe**, 2008, Peinture



**Rowan Smith, Intellevision Marquetry**, détail, 2008, Maqueterie et rotin

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### **Dan Halter**

Dan Halter was born in Zimbabwe. He lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. His work resonates with the kaleidoscopic logic of the bricoleur who dismantles the objects of culture only to re-assemble them so that out of the new relationships between their parts a pattern emerges, and hence a new object. A book becomes a map; a map becomes a woven cloth; stone becomes tablet; the word of God becomes a drug. (...) Halter's process comes closest to the labour of weaving, and as such unravelling the threads of culture, context and politics. The South African National Gallery owns some of his pieces.

### **Glenda Léon**

Glenda Léon was born in Cuba where she lives and works. She also transforms existing objects into pieces full of delicacy and poetry that always deliver a message about human life, either by committing herself or by putting forward meaningful details of everyday life. Two of her videos are in Centre Pompidou collection (Paris). She will take part of the 10th Biennial of Havana in March-April 2009.

### **Trokon Nagbe**

Trokon Nagbe was born in Liberia. He lives and works in New York. He says his resolve is to facilitate his ideas through various mediums: photo, sound, video and film installations as well as large-scale drawings and painting. His aim is to create an environment that engages an audience and is openly participatory for all. His work was included in "Flow" exhibition at Studio Museum of Harlem in 2008.

### **Jackie Nickerson**

Jackie Nickerson was born in the USA. She lives and works in Ireland. She stayed in Africa from 1997 to 2000 and photographed the working people on the land. Out of the daily round and physical work on tea plantations, the small-holdings, the market gardens and the wheat and maize fields of the tribal trust lands, comes an unforgettable beauty and dignity. It emerges from the directness of her portraiture, and it surfaces in the details of its subjects. She has been exhibiting in Europe and the United States. Her works are owned by both public and private collections the United States, Switzerland and Ireland. She won the IAB Prize in 2008.

### **Nnenna Okore**

Nnenna Okore was born in Nigeria. He lives and works in Chicago. Her art is inspired by the use of discarded and found objects in rural areas of her native Nigeria. Her materials include newspapers, wax, cloth, rope, clay and sticks and she applies various repetitive and labor-intensive techniques, like weaving, twisting, sewing, dyeing, waxing and rolling, which were learned by watching villagers perform everyday tasks. These processes accentuate colors, textures and other visceral qualities of her sculptures. She has been shown within and outside the United States, including 'Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary', the inaugural exhibition at the Museum of Art and Design (New York) in 2008.

### **Rowan Smith**

Rowan Smith was born in South Africa where he lives and works. His works «embrace that which we have discarded as obsolescent technology and reworked it in the context of our love for the new and thus gives us pause, as in a moment of reverie, to consider just where we are going and what our desiderata might unravel». His marquetrys pay a tribute to video games consoles of the seventies and eighties rendered in wood through painstaking handicraft. He got his first solo exhibition at Whathiftheworld gallery (Cape Town) in 2008.