

# SAÂDANE AFIF: THE FOUNTAIN ARCHIVES

GALLERY –1

19.MAY.-29.SEP.2019

Mexico City, May 19, 2019—Museo Jumex presents *Saâdane Afif: The Fountain Archives*, a project that showcases part of the collection of images of Marcel Duchamp's *Fountain* (1917), which the artist has gathered from a variety of publications.

Widely regarded as one of the most emblematic works of the 20th century, Duchamp's *Fountain* is the definitive ready-made, a shop-bought urinal that the artist designated as sculpture. This iconic artwork prompted countless publications and still continues to generate comments in a broad range of research topics. The artist Saâdane Afif (b. 1970) made *Fountain*'s printed dissemination the subject of a monumental project: since 2008, he has been collecting publications, catalogues, guides and books that reproduce a photograph of the seminal piece. The pages showing Duchamp's work have been torn out and framed to build up an unexpected archive of *Fountain* that will end with the 1001st entry. The destroyed books, with their missing pages, are then carefully stored on bookshelves in the artist's studio, forming the "passive" part of the project that Afif also calls the "mold".

Gradually, Afif 's *Fountain Archives* has acquired a life of its own and has started to be commented upon, explained or reviewed in a variety of printed publications sometimes illustrated by an image of Duchamp's *Fountain* itself. When integrated into the project, these pages built an archive within the archive, called the *Augmented* section.

Since 2004, Saâdane Afif has also been asking people to write lyrics inspired by his artwork. The texts not only question the notion of interpretation and commentary of a work of art, but also become fundamental material in Afif 's artistic practice. This series of texts, known as *Lyrics* is first presented on exhibition walls, and later becomes a source of inspiration for the production of objects, music or performances.

Over the years, several texts inspired by *The Fountain Archives* have been gathered. These texts are written by François Bucher, Sol Calero, Thomas Clerc, Abraham Cruzvillegas, Natalie Czech, Sammy Engramer, Michel Gauthier, Arthur Gillet, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Gabriel Kuri, Jonathan Monk, Émilie Pitoiset, Lili Reynaud-Dewar, Willem de Rooij, Kilian Rüthemann, Yorgos Sapountzis, Louis-Philippe Scoufaras, Sarah Ancelle Schönfeld, Jerszy Seymour, Michael Stevenson, Susana Vargas Cervantes and Athena Vida.

For his exhibition at Museo Jumex, Afif presents an installation that comprises a bookshelf storing 1067 books from the ongoing archive, as well as 140 framed artworks from the *Augmented* section. On the wall are commissioned song *Lyrics*, five of them never shown before, extending *The Fountain Archives* with their own poetic commentary.

## SAÂDANE AFIF

Saâdane Afif (b. 1970, Vendôme, France) lives and works in Berlin. Recent solo exhibitions include *Paroles*, Wiels Contemporary Art Center, Brussels (2018); *The Fountain Archives*, Centre Pompidou, Paris (2017); *Quoi?-L'Eternité*, Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, Seoul (2016); *The End of the World*, Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin (2015); *Là bas*, Kunsthaus Glarus & 8th Berlin Biennale (2014) and *Ici*, Leopold-Hoesch-Museum & Papiermuseum, Düren (2014). His work was included in Documenta 12 (2007) and in the 56th International Exhibition of the Venice Biennale (2015). The artist received among others the Prix Marcel Duchamp in 2009, and the Preis der Günther-Peill-Stiftung, Germany in 2012.

## MUSEO JUMEX

Museo Jumex is the Fundación Jumex Arte Contemporáneo's main platform. It opened its doors to the public in November 2013 as an institution devoted to contemporary art, whose aim was not only to serve a broad and diverse public, but also to become a laboratory for experimentation and innovation in the arts. Through its exhibitions and public programs, Museo Jumex aspires to become a relevant institution in the field of art by producing and co-producing original exhibitions and research, and familiarizing audiences with the concepts and contexts that inform current art practice. Through the use of critical and pedagogical tools, the museum's educational programs further the institution's commitment to build links between contemporary art and the public.

## ADMISSION

General admission / \$50 MXN

Mexican citizens / \$30 MXN

Free for: Children under 15 /

Students\* / Senior citizens\* /

Teachers\*

\*with valid ID

## HOURS

Sundays free

Tuesday–Sunday / 10 AM–7 PM

Monday / Closed

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