



METRONOME PRESS

PRESS RELEASE

METRONOME No. 9 & METRONOME PRESS

PARIS LAUNCH: Friday 28th October 2005 from 5pm to 2am
At the Hôtel St Louis Opéra, and at Starsky's Bar,
51 rue de la Victoire, Paris 75009

LONDON LAUNCH: Friday 4th November 2005 at 7pm
At The Arts Club, Dover Street, London, W1

On Friday, November 4th 2005, The Arts Club in Dover Street, London, will host the launch of Metronome No. 9 'Le Teaser & Le Joker', edited by Clémentine Deliss and Thomas Boutoux and consisting of 7 books of 64 pages each, with new work by over 30 international artists including 13 artists from France and 10 from the UK.

In addition to 'Le Teaser & Le Joker', will be the presentation of the first collection of paperbacks published by Metronome Press, a new production company based in Paris and dedicated to promoting new fiction, scenarios, novels, and short stories, written by contemporary visual artists and art critics.

Metronome in Paris

Founded in 1996 by the curator Clémentine Deliss, the artists' and writers' organ Metronome has been researched and published in a number of cities in the world for nearly ten years (e.g., Dakar, Copenhagen, Oslo, Basel, Berlin, Frankfurt, Vienna, London, Edinburgh). In 2002, Clémentine Deliss was offered a residency in Paris. She invited Thomas Boutoux, the French art critic to collaborate with her on the production of Metronome No. 9.

Acting as a critical alternative to conventional art publishing, Metronome operates like a prologue or creative tangent to an exhibition, generating new work and triggering short circuits between art scenes in different locations. Launches have taken place at the Dakar and Venice biennales; Documenta X in Kassel; the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London; the Serpentine Gallery Bookshop, London; the DAAD gallery Berlin, the Kunsthalle Basel, and the Galerie Chantal Crousel in Paris.

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METRONOME No. 9 'Le Teaser & Le Joker'

Limited Edition, published in France, 7 volumes of 64 pages each, 13 x 20 cm, colour cover, 44 illustrations, black/white, 20 pages of text per volume, English and French. Sold in special box set of 7 volumes: 100 Euros/£65

Background and influences: 'The Stripteaser' of Maurice Girodias

This ninth issue of Metronome is influenced by Maurice Girodias (1919-1990), the notorious French publisher who founded Olympia Press in the 1950s in Paris and dodged the censorship laws by publishing English novels in France. Mixed in with erotic titles were works that were to become the leading lights of the literary avantgarde in the post-war era: Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*, J. P. Donleavy's *The Ginger Man*, Pauline Réage's *The Story of O*, William S. Burroughs' *Naked Lunch*, Terry Southern's *Candy*, plus works by Samuel Beckett, Henry Miller, Raymond Queneau, Jean Genet and Georges Bataille, often under pseudonym.

In 1953 and 1954 Girodias produced two small publications entitled '**The Stripteaser**' and '**The Teaser (Pure & Simple)**' aimed at seducing people into buying his new series of green paperbacks. Fascinated by the form and originality of Girodias' editorial approach, we decided to **recast this procedure and, in collaboration with contemporary artists and writers, develop a translation of his project fifty years on, in 2005.**

Five artists (including filmmaker, Philippe Grandrieux, and architect, Didier Fiuza Faustino) have produced visual storylines for each new 'Teaser' which, together, form Metronome No. 9: **Documentation Céline Duval (F), Didier Fiuza Faustino (F), Philippe Grandrieux (F), Guillaume Leblon (F), Pierre Leguillon (F).** The sixth artist appears under the name **Adresse Anonyme.**

All texts published in Metronome No. 9 'Le Teaser & Le Joker' are entirely fiction-based. We believe that in 2005 there is a need for stories, narratives, scenarios, in short, forms of fiction that stimulate and nurture the imagination. The timing proves to be right: a number of artists, critics, and curators have spoken of their interest in writing a novel, a film scenario, or pieces of fiction in parallel with the work for which they are best known. The texts in 'Le Teaser & Le Joker' are (with one exception) all extracts of unpublished novels.

Contributing Artists and Writers:

(NB: several contributors appear under pseudonym)

John Akomfrah & Edward George (GB), Marc Atlas (F), Olivier Babin (F), Paul Baruch (F), Diamantis (D), Ewa Einhorn (S), Charles Henri Ford & Parker Tyler (USA), Craig Garrett (USA), Tom Gidley (GB), Claire Guezengar (F), Judith Ickowicz (F), Phyllis Kiehl (D), Lefevre Jean Claude (F), Susannah Mabitt (USA), Rev. Boyd MacDonald (GB), Tom McCarthy (GB), Bill Moan (N), Douglas Park (GB), Abo Rasul (N), Nancy Strasbourg (GB), Samon Takahashi (F), Boris Tiago (F), Oscar Tuazon (USA), Bella Woodfield (USA)

The seventh volume of Metronome No. 9 is called '**Le Joker**'. It is here that the reader can find concept notes, photographs of Metronome meetings in Paris, historical documents on Girodias, biographies of the artists and writers, references to funding agencies, as well as information on previous issues of Metronome.

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As a result of the research that led to Metronome No. 9, based on the international history of avant-garde publishing in Paris and its productive intersection between art and literature, we have undertaken a substantial development of Metronome: the launch of a new collection of paperbacks and the foundation of METRONOME PRESS, an experimental production and publishing company based in Paris.

The first activity of METRONOME PRESS is the publication of fiction written by artists in the shape of a new paperback series. To ensure international distribution, these paperbacks are published in English, but soon will be translated into French and possibly other languages. In publishing in English yet from Paris, we are taking on Maurice Girodias' brilliant intuition whereby he sought to highlight the cultural internationalism of Paris and turn it into a centre for global arts distribution.

Metronome Press and the first collection of paperbacks:

'Fat Mountain Scenes' by Phyllis Kiehl

At the Weiko Sud Diet Clinic, a slimming farm completely isolated from the outside world, a group of extremely obese patients undergoes unconventional therapy, one that doesn't necessarily produce the desired effects... Until one day, Dr Ariel Tense, the new straight-laced and vicious senior consultant, arrives at Weiko Sud straight from Brasilia bringing with him his own arsenal of slimming tools. Soon the tension builds up between the sinister Dr Tense, ready to whip his new herd into submission, and Dr Sago, the mysterious guru-like manager of the farm. As the XXL fashion show comes to an ecstatic close, the situation in the clinic escalates uncontrollably... A page-turner written by German artist Phyllis Kiehl and available from Metronome Press. 160 pages, English edition. ISBN 2-916262-03-2. £6/8,50 Euros.

'Stunning Lofts' by Tom Gidley

It is the turn of the new millenium and London has transformed into a spiralling black hole of displaced lives and speculative real estate. In this mysterious novel written by British artist Tom Gidley, we follow the story of two men inexorably drawn to the darker dimensions of the city, battling between personal success, distraught relationships, and the breakdown of urban life. In this tautly written tale that glides between these parallel existences, we witness the increasingly dysfunctional patterns of everyday life in the capital colliding with the callous opportunism of late capitalism. Both deeply witty and breathtakingly perceptive, STUNNING LOFTS is available from Metronome Press. 360 pages, English edition. ISBN 2-916262-02-4. £6/8,50 Euros.

'Remainder' by Tom McCarthy

Traumatized by an accident that involves something falling from the sky and leaves him eight and a half million pounds richer, our hero spends his time and money obsessively reconstructing and re-enacting memories and situations from his past: a large building with piano music in the distance, the familiar smells and sounds of liver frying and spluttering, lethargic cats lounging on roofs until they tumble off them... But when this fails to quench his thirst for authenticity, he starts reconstructing more and more violent events, including hold-ups and shoot-outs. Find out how this breathtaking story develops by purchasing Tom McCarthy's REMAINDER from Metronome Press. 272 pages, English edition. ISBN 2-916262-00-8. £6/8,50 Euros.

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‘The Young and Evil’ by Charles Henri Ford and Parker Tyler

At last it’s available again! The book that Gertrude Stein was mad about, and that was originally published by Obelisk Press in Paris, in 1933. Written by American poets, Charles Henri Ford and Parker Tyler, THE YOUNG AND EVIL tells the story of Julian and Karel and their friends, somewhere between the gay bars and poetry scenes of Greenwich Village, and the drag balls of Harlem. This queer coterie spends much of the time getting drunk at parties, swapping beds and apartments, avoiding the hostile attention of police and sailors that cruise the parks, meeting up at all-night ‘coffeepots’, generally looking fabulous in make-up and gowns, and – occasionally – creating art. A masterpiece proudly brought back to you by Metronome Press. 160 pages, English edition. ISBN 2-916262-01-6. £6/8,50 Euros.

Metronome No. 9 ‘Le Teaser & Le Joker’ and the establishment of Metronome Press have received financial support from Mr Harald Falckenberg, Hamburg; Mr Antoine de Galbert, Paris; La Délégation aux Arts Plastiques, Ministère de la Culture, France; and The American Center Foundation, New York.

Metronome Press is a non-for profit organisation. All proceeds from sales go towards on-going administration costs and production. Half of the total production of Metronome No. 9 circulates through the hands of the contributing artists, writers and their friends.

For further information, or to order copies in advance, please contact:
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