



michèle didier

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Sexe, béatitudo et logique comptable***

A curatorial proposal by Mathieu Mercier

Opening on Thursday February 12, 2015 from 6 to 9 pm

In presence of Mathieu Mercier

Exhibition from February 13 to March 7, 2015

## **SUMMARY**

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# ***Sexe, béatitude et logique comptable***

A curatorial proposal by Mathieu Mercier

*Sexe, béatitude et logique comptable (sex, beatitude and accounting logic):* Mathieu Mercier has selected works that seem very much opposed. On one hand, he chooses some of the many conceptual artworks in mfc-michèle didier's collection, of which the serial and repetitive character can cause a particular psychological state of mind, close to beatitude or trance. A form of modified state of consciousness. On the other hand, he confronts these with art works that reveal a much more sensual nature, erotic even, such as *Double Bind* by Leigh Ledare or *Mes dessins secrets* by Annette Messager.

« *Michèle Didier and Emanuele Quinz\**, who know my great interest for published works, have invited me to imagine an exhibition based on Michèle Didier's previously published editions. I thought it would be interesting to work on two motifs characteristic of her program, which seem completely opposed at first glance. The question will be to confront in an intelligible and sensible way the incongruous combination of serial and minimal artworks with erotic rudimentary representations. »

Mathieu Mercier, excerpt of the interview given to *L'Officiel*, published in issue of September 2014.

Two styles will be confronted at mfc-michèle didier gallery with the following works:

*Logique comptable (accounting logic):*

- *One Billion Colored Dots* by Robert Barry
- *One Million Years* by On Kawara
- *Trilogy* by On Kawara
- *The Book of Shapes* by Allan McCollum

*Sexe et béatitude (sex and beatitude):*

- *Double Bind* by Leigh Ledare
- *Mes dessins secrets* by Annette Messager

Also, a new edition by Mathieu Mercier, produced by mfc-michèle didier, will be presented in preview at this occasion. It will consist of a limited edition newspaper, containing a series of nude photographs, all coming from Mathieu Mercier private collection. Where do these images come from? From a lost paradise? Mathieu Mercier tries to provide an answer. «*These images are fascinating as they don't reveal any stylistic indication - the models don't have any cloths nor accessory and the scene always shows an exterior, rural decor. Nonetheless, we can guess the era thanks to the women's hairstyle, the way they pose and the quality of the picture. Even if they give the impression of a lost paradise, they clearly seem dated...*»\*\*This new art work by Mathieu Mercier will enrichen the exhibition.

\* Emanuele Quinz is an art historian and independant curator. Since 2012, he is associate research professor at EnsadLab. Emanuele Quinz collaborates to the exhibition *Sexe, béatitude et logique comptable*.

\*\* Excerpt of Emanuele Quinz's interview of Mathieu Mercier in December 2014 in Paris.

# Biography of Mathieu Mercier

## Selection of shows

2015

*ART & ME*, Mudam, Luxembourg, November 11 – February 15, 2015

2014

*Mathieu Mercier*, Villa Merkel, Esslinger, Germany, December 13, 2014 – February 22, 2015

*Mathieu Mercier*, Kunstmuseum St Gallen, Switzerland, August 23 – November 9, 2014

2013

*Desilusiones opticas*, Galerie Luis Adelantado, Valencia, Spain, September 26 – November 21, 2013

*Nueve y cuarto*, Galerie Ignacio Liprandi Buenos Aires Contemporary Art, Buenos Aires, Argentina, February 21 – May 2013

2012

*Mathieu Mercier*, Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, Paris, France, November 26, 2012 – January 12, 2013

*Optische Enttäuschung*, Galerie Mehdi Chouakri, Berlin, Germany, October 12 – November 17, 2012

*Mathieu Mercier*, Maison du Barreau, Ordre des avocats de Paris, Paris, France, September 11 – December 31, 2012

*Désillusions d'optique*, Fri Art, Fribourg, Switzerland, May 26 – August 19, 2012

*Mathieu Mercier*, Galerie OGMS, Sofia, Bulgaria, February 2, – April 15, 2012

*Sublimations*, Crédac, Ivry-sur-Seine, France, January 20 – March 25, 2012

2011

*Mathieu Mercier*, Galerie Mehdi Chouakri, FIAC 2011, Paris, France, October 20 – 23, 2011

*A Quarter to Three*, Skulpturi, Copenhagen, Denmark, September 3 – October 8, 2011

*Frühe werke und etwas neues*, Galerie Lange & Pult, Zurich, Switzerland, May 7 – July 23, 2011

2008

*Mathieu Mercier*, Galerie Massimo Minini, Brescia, Italy, September 27 – November 15, 2008

*Mathieu Mercier, Circumnavigators Paradox*, Super Window Project & Gallery, Kyoto, Japan, August 5 – October 11, 2008

*Des spectres et des automates*, Le Dojo, Nice, France, June 20 – September 27, 2008

*Mathieu Mercier*, Galerie Lange & Pult, Zurich, Switzerland, May 31 – July 12, 2008

*T.A.G.*, Galerie Mehdi Chouakri, Berlin, Germany, May 2 – June 18, 2008

*Mathieu Mercier, Ohne titel 1993-2007*, Kunsthalle, Nuremberg, Germany, February 14 – April 6, 2008

2007

*Mathieu Mercier, Sans titres 1993-2007*, ARC/Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France, October 20, 2007 – January 6, 2008



**Leigh Ledare**

*Double Bind* (excerpt)

3 volumes:

Vol 1 of 3, *Husbands*: 27.9 x 21.6 cm - 96 pages

Vol 2 of 3, *Diptychs*: 38.3 x 30 cm - 112 pages

Vol 3 of 3, *Ephemeras*, consisting of 6 revues: 41.3 x 30.9 cm each - 80 pages each

The volumes are inserted in a cardboard slipcase, measuring 46.9 x 35.8 x 7 cm

Limited edition of 85 sets of 3 volumes and 15 artist's proofs

Certificate signed and numbered by the artist

Produced and published in 2012 by mfc-michèle didier



**Robert Barry**

*One Billion Colored Dots*

25 volumes:

2008 pages each

27.6 x 18.6 cm each

Limited edition of 30 numbered and signed copies and 5 artist's proofs

Produced and published in 2008 by mfc-michèle didier



**Annette Messager**

*Mes dessins secrets*

76 drawings

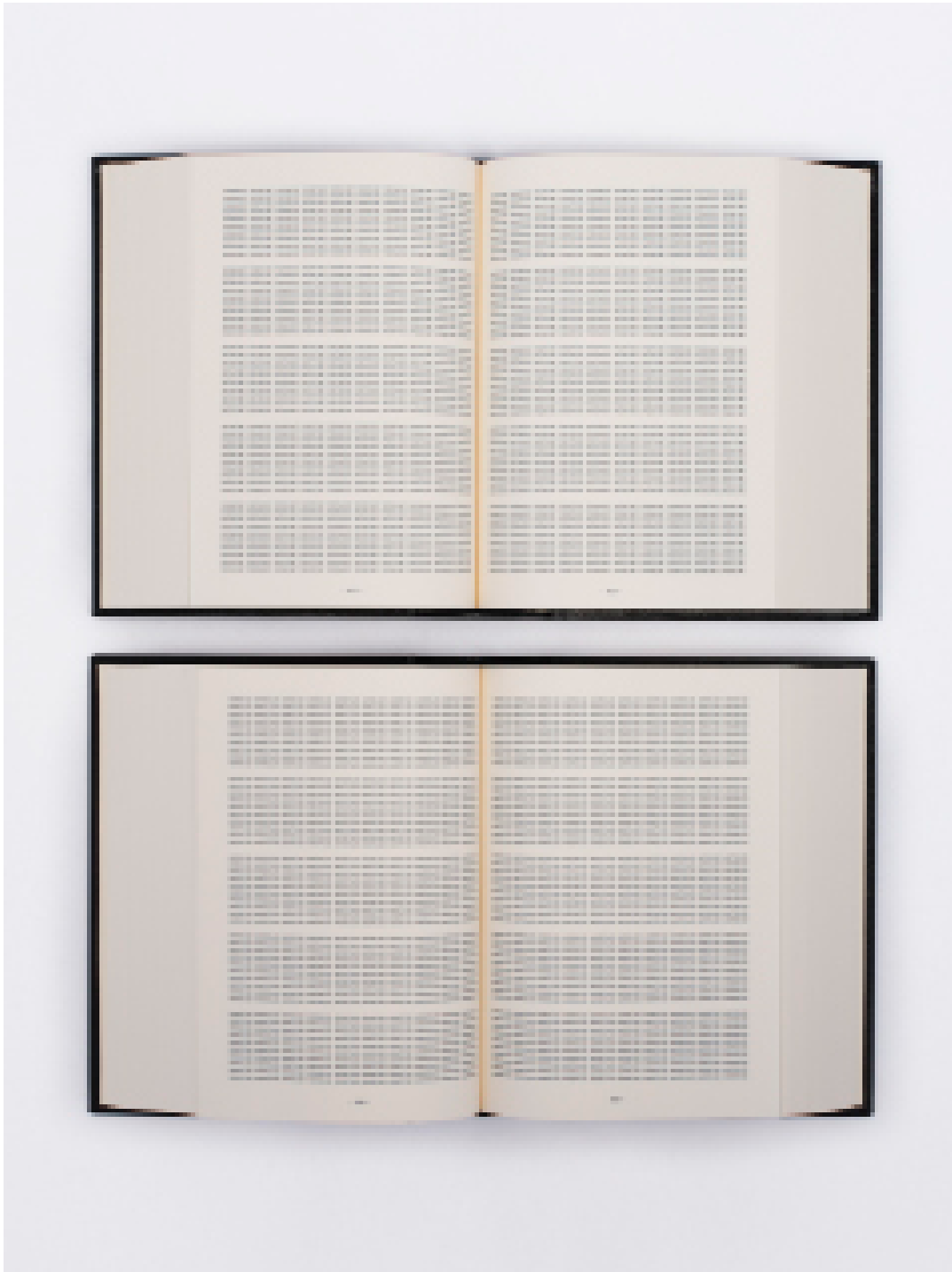
Dimension of the drawings: variable

Dimension of the album: 32 x 24 cm

Limited edition of 24 numbered and signed copies and 6 artist's proofs

1972 - 2011

Produced and published in 2011 by mfc-michèle didier



**On Kawara**

*One Million Years*

2 volumes

Total 4024 pages

14.4 x 10.5 cm each

Slipcase, 11.5 x 9.2 x 16.2 cm

Limited edition of 60 numbered and signed copies, 500 numbered copies and 10 artist's proofs

Produced and published in 1999 by Editions Micheline Szwajcer & Michèle Didier





**Mathieu Mercier**

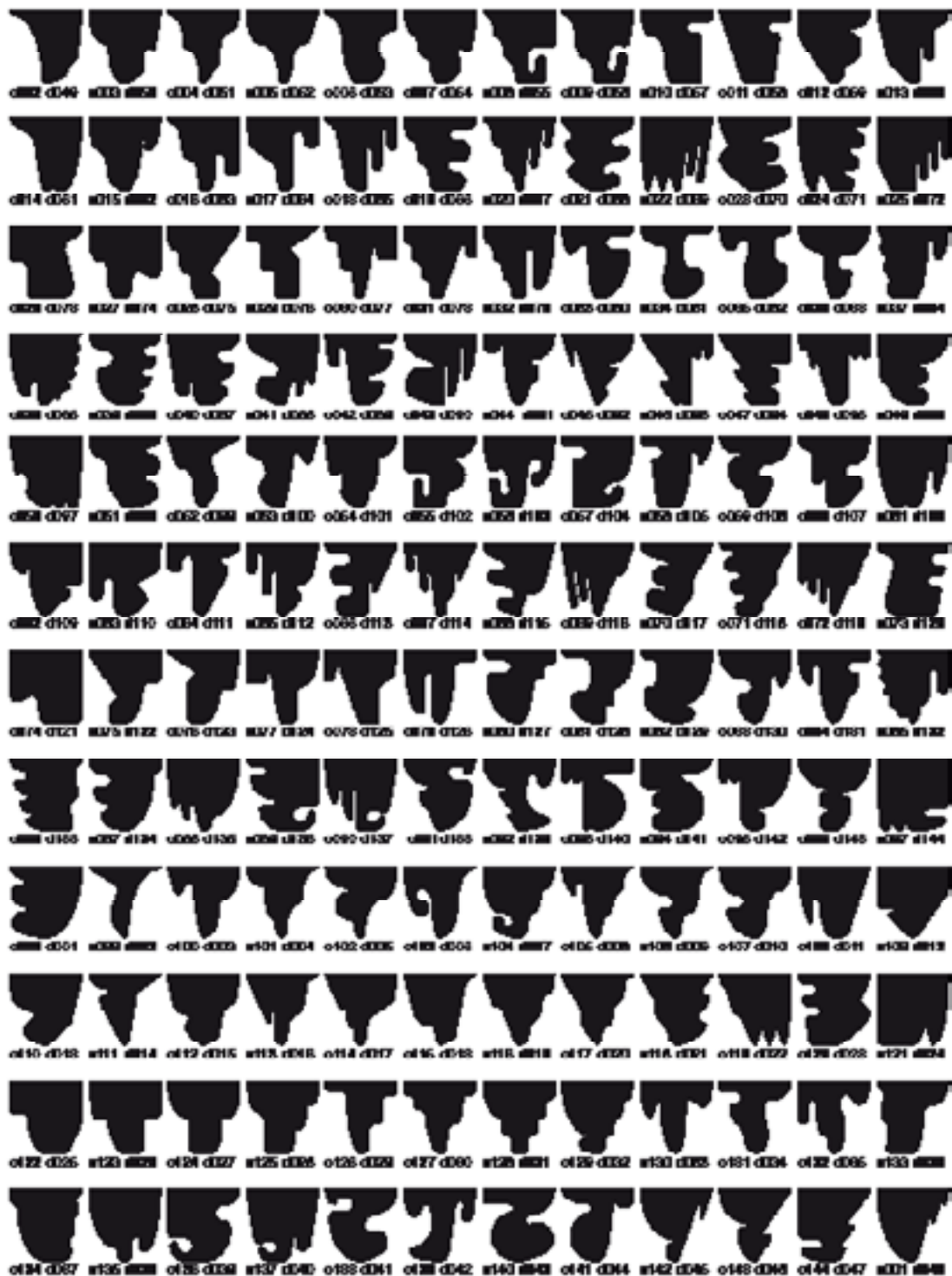
*Journal*

Limited edition, containing a series of photographs of naked women

Edition numbered and signed by the artist

Produced and published in 2015 by mfc-michèle didier





**Allan McCollum**

*The Book of Shapes*

2 volumes

Volume I: 632 pages, volume II: 360 pages

27.9 x 21.6 cm each

Limited edition of 70 sets of 2 volumes and 10 artist's proofs

Produced and published in 2010 by mfc-michèle didier

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**We are fantastic**

**Antoni Muntadas, *We are fantastic*, 2005**