

**Sébastien MEHAL****Accident**

November 18.11 – 30.12. 2017

caryl\* ivrisse - crochemar & [creative renegades society] are pleased to welcome and present the solo exhibition of Paris based Martinique born artist, Sébastien Mehal.

The question of the human condition in urban areas

Sébastien Mehal shares with us a world apart from a reflection on life in an urban environment. Marked in his personal history by the phenomenon of the city and its singularities - frantic pace, anonymity, visual icons, social codes - Sébastien Mehal draws all his inspiration from his experiences. From the technique (the paint he uses is made up of pigments from the automobile industry) to the subjects treated (architecture, communication, the solitary individual, the subjective experience), modern life at the heart of his creation. Some of his works are characterized by the use of industrial materials - graphical aluminum structures recalling the scaffolding of changing or expanding cities - on which are fixed paintings and other creations. But the artist also introduces in his works noble materials such as bronze and marble.

Through a minimalist aesthetic, he proposes a sociological and psychological reflection of society that he captures as an observer or a lookout. And in his artistic vocabulary, the light bulb appears as a key element. Since his childhood, he has always had a fascination with the technical precision and beauty of light bulbs. From this motive - a sort of conceptual Electricity Fairy - he describes contemporary urbanity through electric metaphors: the social tensions that are quite strong on his native island - sometimes electric - with quite large differences in economic levels and where the social fabric is not made of a continuum but of breaks, reflections of a social complexity.

Sébastien Mehal launches his gesture of curative value in his recent works thanks to these splashes of "injected" liquid paints using large industrial or medical syringes. The smooth textures of the early times give way to subtle reliefs, capturing and reflecting light while introducing a deep effect in a work of painting and serigraphy very rich visually by the subtlety of the compositions, colors and images chosen by the artist.

Through the theme of the car accident, the exhibition raises awareness of the social, economic and cultural codes of the French West Indies.

The exhibition Accident is divided into three parts.

In the first part, the viewer is confronted with emptiness through monochrome paintings referring to the architectural articulation of the current social context. Year after year, new large social housing complexes are added next to single-family houses in the French West Indies.

The second part deconstructs the accident with a certain pictorial and sonic violence. In this space, collision scenes are silkscreened on large canvases in bright colors, splashed with paint. At the same time the visitor is immersed in a sound installation, evoking the catastrophe.

It is the pain of a family affected by tragedy - a dream of broken happiness - that underpins this hall.

Multicolored plastic curtains - popular in the 1980s - give access to the third part of the exhibition. Part of the wall is covered with wallpaper - also popular in Martinique in the 80s. There are arranged some frames, a statue of Virgin and two gilded frames covered with wrapping film. On the ceiling, a white neon illuminates without ever extinguishing memories on a table: rolled belt, gold shell and Lambi conch.

In this same space, there is a golden supermarket shopping cart, empty and partially wrapped with black plastic film. On the ground are placed children's toys also wrapped in black plastic film.

The feeling of lack and emotional emptiness floods the scene.

**+ / more info: [14n61w.org](http://14n61w.org)**