



**After Service**  
**a selection of projects**  
**by Stéphane Barbier Bouvet**  
 18 May - 1 July 2017

Stéphane Barbier Bouvet's way of approaching his subjects bears a resemblance to the methodology of the critic, the curator, the designer, and the sculptor.

His work unfolds, simultaneously, as an application (of techniques and principles), a form of knowledge (of the history of design, art, and exhibitions), and a commentary (on our relation to the production, dissemination, and circulation of objects).

Barbier Bouvet's projects, whether they are the result of specific commissions or of propositions offered willingly to the purpose of a show, have a skillful tendency to oscillate between dilution and diffusion. They facilitate, unsettle, displace, or modify existing objects, conditions, and spaces, and more often than not they do so by relying on intuitive and organic principles rather than on conceptual protocols. Stéphane Barbier Bouvet's services are regularly solicited by museums of art and design, galleries, and artists, as well as by schools, businesses, and the public sector. It is somewhat more unusual, however, for his work to be shown and treated like a full-blown language in its own right.

*After Service* is an experiment in that direction, that is to say, an exhibition that defies the contextual dependence of the work while offering a survey of the repertory of gestures and forms articulated by this artist over the years. To distance the objects from their functionality and thus leave space to the institution's desire to play the game of collecting and presenting: such is the exercise being proposed here.

*After Service* can be seen as an exhibition view that refers to the image of Stéphane Barbier Bouvet's work. Basing itself on a selection of projects brought together almost at random, the exhibition tries to reveal and name the common points of the work as well as the multiple nature of each of its elements. Tables, chairs, lamps, and various objects find themselves gathered and deactivated. Removed from the context in which they normally appear, the pieces cease to be intermediaries and become sources of elementary information.

The closed circuit of the exhibition obliges the objects to exist through their physical presence and plastic qualities. Marble, aluminium, wood, galvanized steel, glass, concrete, lights ... all become witnesses to an economy of means and gestures, one that avails itself of raw industrial materials

Kluisstraat 86 -  
 rue de l'Ermitage  
 B-1050 Brussels

+32 (0)2 644 42 48  
 info@la-loge.be

and of the ready-mades of distribution while resisting systems of mass production.

The bulk of works on display willingly embraces the exhibition effect by relying on apparatuses for circulation and monstration drawn directly from the practice itself. *Verrière* uses three video projectors to reproduce the illumination system of the classical museum and thus light up the space; *Roulez jeunesse* is a bench from whence visitors can survey the landscape of sculptures; *Circulation (Mirror)*, for its part, creates an image of the work that is both photogenic and blurred. These three apparatuses of vision contribute to establishing a space-time created, and dedicated, to observing this artist's practice from 18 May until 1 July 2017.

### **Shown works**

A leaflet, in English, in which the artist discusses the contexts in which each work first appeared, is available at the entrance.

### **About the artist**

Stéphane Barbier Bouvet (°1981 in Marseille, lives and works in Brussels) develops different projects, often in the form of a site-specific response to a given situation. Stéphane Barbier Bouvet graduated at École cantonale d'art de Lausanne (ECAL) in 2006, where he soon after opened *lm3*, an independent exhibition platform with Benjamin Valenza, Jeanne Graff, and Adrien Missika. Together with Benjamin Valenza, he also initiated *Kaiser Kraft*, a construction program that works on contracts within the art field. He co-founded the Dirty Art Department at Sandberg Instituut in Amsterdam and has taught classes at different institutions including Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts de Lyon and Hochschule für Künste in Bremen. Over the past years, Barbier Bouvet participated in a wide range of self-initiated, solo, collective and commissioned projects and exhibitions, including most recently the traveling solo exhibition *Dating Greek and other beauties*, Live in Your Head, Geneva, Switzerland, *La Fabbrica*, Ascona, Switzerland, and *La Rada*, Locarno, Switzerland. Exhibitions and projects currently on view include *1977*, Centre d'art de l'node, Vélizy; *Palais Potemkine*, The National Gallery, The Palace, Sofia; and *Performing Knowledge* at Diensgebäude, Zürich.

Stéphane Barbier Bouvet is represented by the gallery Truth and Consequences, in Geneva, and Salle Principale, in Paris.

## **Events**

-- Dialogue between the artists Stéphane Barbier Bouvet and Margaux Schwarz (details on this event will be announced soon).

-- Saturday 1 July: discussion with the artist to mark the publication of the book *After Service*, published by La Loge

--7-10 September: inauguration of *Les Agapes*, a commissioned, site-specific installation by Stéphane Barbier Bouvet for the top floor of La Loge

## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Opening hours**

Thursday, Friday, Saturday

From 12h00 to 18h00

Free access

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## **La Loge**

86, rue de l'Ermitage

1050 Bruxelles

+32(0)2 644 42 48

info@la-loge.be

www.la-loge.be

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