



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Legendary French artist Antoine D'Agata will exhibit in Hong Kong

Photographs | Video installation | Stage performance
29 March – 25 May 2018

CHARBON art space is pleased to announce an upcoming exhibition presenting photography works of acclaimed French artist **Antoine D'Agata**. Opening on 29 March and run until 25 May 2018 to coincide with Art Basel in Hong Kong and South Island Art Day, the solo exhibition named **Contamination** will showcase 30 colour and black & white photographs and a video installation. Antoine D'Agata will be in Hong Kong for the exhibition opening on 29 and 30 March 2018.

Face-to-face media interviews are welcome to arrange with CHARBON now.

As part of Contamination, a specially created theatre performance entitled **Odysseia** will premiere on 8, 9 and 10 May at the exhibition premises, directed and performed by French actor/director Fabrice Michel. Odyssey is an French May Associated Project.

Contamination

Curated by French gallery owner and art collector Lalie Choffel from CHARBON, **Contamination** pays tribute to thirty years of the unique work of major artist Antoine D'Agata, exhibiting thirty colour and black & white prints covering a period from 1998 to 2018, as well as a video installation.

"The term artist does not suit me, it is too heavy. I see myself rather as an agent of contamination"

D'Agata's photographs are not the result of a search for images but the consequence of his arduous and radical quest. As such, the themes captured with his camera are broad, although always motivated by the quest of human essence of the outcasts. Through a drastic plunge into prostitution, urban violence and drugs, he chases the dignity of the losers, life force of the underdogs, beauty of a gesture and human solidarity where one is used to see only nothingness. The works featured for this exhibition focus on the human flesh as the core, the starting point, the essential base of life, love, ecstasy and suffering.

CHARBON, 8/F, 44 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong | www.charbonartspace.com + 852 6906 2330 |

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"I started to tell a story that goes against what we see on TV, which goes against the different photographic traditions, and I want to go to the end of this story. I want to show whores who enjoy or kind criminals: a deeper, more complex humanity"
- Antoine D'Agata

Odysseia

Solely directed and performed by **Fabrice Michel** as part of the exhibition, the stage show Odysseia is an attempt to travel to the heart of the flesh of D'Agata's work by using his own **words**. There will only be three shows of Odysseia in Hong Kong on 8, 9 and 10 May 2018. Odysseia is an associated project of Le French May 2018.

Contamination – selected artworks for publishing: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pfut620mjd4mjox/AAA-rDwgKuZ5qmsbPYNAHozra?dl=0>

Contamination - exhibition poster: <http://bit.ly/2DNgh4e>

Odysseia - stage show poster: <http://bit.ly/2nnobuU>

Logo: <http://bit.ly/2DRgDeh>

Exhibition opening

Thursday 29 March 2018

10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. | South Island Art Day with Art Basel programmes

6.00 p.m. | Public opening

7.00 p.m. | Artist sharing

- In the presence of Antoine D'Agata (artist) and Lalie Choffel (gallery owner & curator)
- Free admission for the public, drinks and canapés will be served

Facebook event with regular updates: <https://www.facebook.com/events/686090678445464/>



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Exhibition period

29 March – 25 May 2018

1.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Tuesday to Saturday, except public holidays

8/F, 44 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong | + 852 6906 2330

- Free admission for the public
- More details: <https://www.charbonartspace.com/antoine-d-agata>



Stage performance - Odysseia

8, 9, 10 May 2018

8.00 p.m. (duration: ONE hour)

- Ticketing: <https://www.eventbrite.hk/e/odysseia-tickets-42172347627> (HKD200/ticket)

- Facebook event with regular updates: <https://www.facebook.com/events/215143239053678/>

- Ends -

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About CHARBON

Opened in September 2015, CHARBON is a multipurpose art space of 1,700 sq. ft. located in the blooming cultural district - Wong Chuk Hang – and founded by art collector Lalie Choffel. Driven by Choffel's two great passions in contemporary art and theatre, CHARBON aims to be the hub filled with art and life in the south side of Hong Kong by presenting a wide range of artistic expressions. Regular art and cultural exhibitions, artist sharing, live contemporary performances, documentary screenings and artist residencies are organised for public access throughout the year.



About the artists

Antoine D'Agata is a French photographer born in Marseilles in 1961, where he spent his teenage years in violent combats for political militancy. Fascinated by the marginality, he had shared total experiences with whores, junkies, thugs. He left France in 1983 to travel the world. He went first to Central America, to distant revolutions, in the search of self-destruction energy. Finding himself in New York in the early 90's, he pursued an interest in photography by taking courses at the International Center of Photography where his teachers included Larry Clark and Nan Goldin. During his time in New York D'Agata worked in the editorial department of Magnum. His first books of photographs, *De Mala Muerte* and *Mala Noche*, were published in 1998, and the following year Galerie Vu began distributing his work. In 2001 he published "*Hometown*", and won the Niépce Prize for young photographers. He continued to exhibit and publish regularly: "*Vortex*" and "*Insomnia*" were published in 2003, "*Stigma*" in 2004, "*Manifeste*" in 2005.

In 2004 D'Agata joined Magnum Photos and in the same year he shot his first short film "*Le Ventre du Monde*" (The World's Belly). This experiment led to his long feature film "*Aka Ana*", shot in 2006 in Tokyo.

Since 2005 Antoine d'Agata has had no settled place of residence : he works around the world. He has numerous solo exhibitions in France, Italy, Germany, Spain, UK, Russia, USA, Brasil, Mexique, Japan, Australia, Syria, Cameroun, Mali, etc... and publish several books a year (the last one, "*Lilith*", to be published in Feb 2018) .

Since years he dedicates himself a lot in teaching through many workshops worldwide. He is also deeply involved in the Angkor Photo Festival which he helped to start and where he offers photography workshops to children and young adults at no charge for the past 10 years.

Fabrice Michel is a French actor and director born in Besançon in 1965 and raised in Marseilles. He was trained at the TNS. On stage he works on more than fifty plays, in particular for Jean-Pierre Vincent, Joël Jouanneau, Marcel Maréchal, Romeo Castellucci, Lambert Wilson, or Angela Konrad.

He plays in more than 20 movies for cinema and television with great directors such as Nicole Garcia, Jean-Baptiste Andréa or Wim Wenders. Along with his actor's career, he writes and stages several shows with his Theatre Cie. "*La Chapelle Gokan*". This year, he will be on stage at Avignon Festival 2018 in the play "*Le Mensonge du Singe*" at thaler Artéfile. He lives in Paris where he also teaches dramatic art the Cours Florent.