

bétonsalon

Centre for art and research

10 years

CONFESSIONS

KARTHIK PANDIAN

Solo exhibition and residency

9 April – 7 June 2014

Opening: Tuesday 8 April 2014, 6pm – 9pm

Bétonsalon – Centre for art and research is pleased to announce American artist Karthik Pandian's residency at the Centre international d'accueil et d'échanges des Récollets, in partnership with the City of Paris and the Institut français.

Confessions, Karthik Pandian's first solo exhibition in France organised at Bétonsalon – Centre for art and research, is an intimate engagement with the commodity, technology and craft, the abstraction of thought and the concreteness of the body. Featuring an ambitious new work in sculpture presented in an exhibition design that responds directly to the glass facade of the architecture, the show will also premiere a new 16mm film by life after life, the first public presentation of collaborative work by Karthik Pandian and his partner, Paige K. Johnston.

"In the world, I find myself drawn to material that is yoked, sometimes comically, sometimes tragically, to the perverse convulsions of history. Invariably, this involves a kind of strobing back and forth between the past and present, the buried and the breathing. I'd situate my work, however, at the interval between this strobing, the threshold at which the historical and the contemporary haunt one another [...].



Karthik Pandian, *Atlas*, 2012, HD video production still. Courtesy Vilma Gold, London.

The butterfly in the chrysalis is not only blinded but also suspended, weightless. I imagine it's an experience not altogether unlike floating in a sensory deprivation tank, which is something I've been doing in lieu of going to the studio lately. The «films» I work on in there are like a cinema of pure potential – timeless, edgeless, disembodied. This blindness can be productive; it puts pressure on appearance, makes you see differently, etc. But there's also a Bartleby dimension to it. A preference not to produce. An effort to accumulate instead of expend intensity. An attempt to commune with sheer negativity that perhaps draws us closer to being. The purest light is the imagined light, the one that emanates from our consciousness, projected into the void [...].

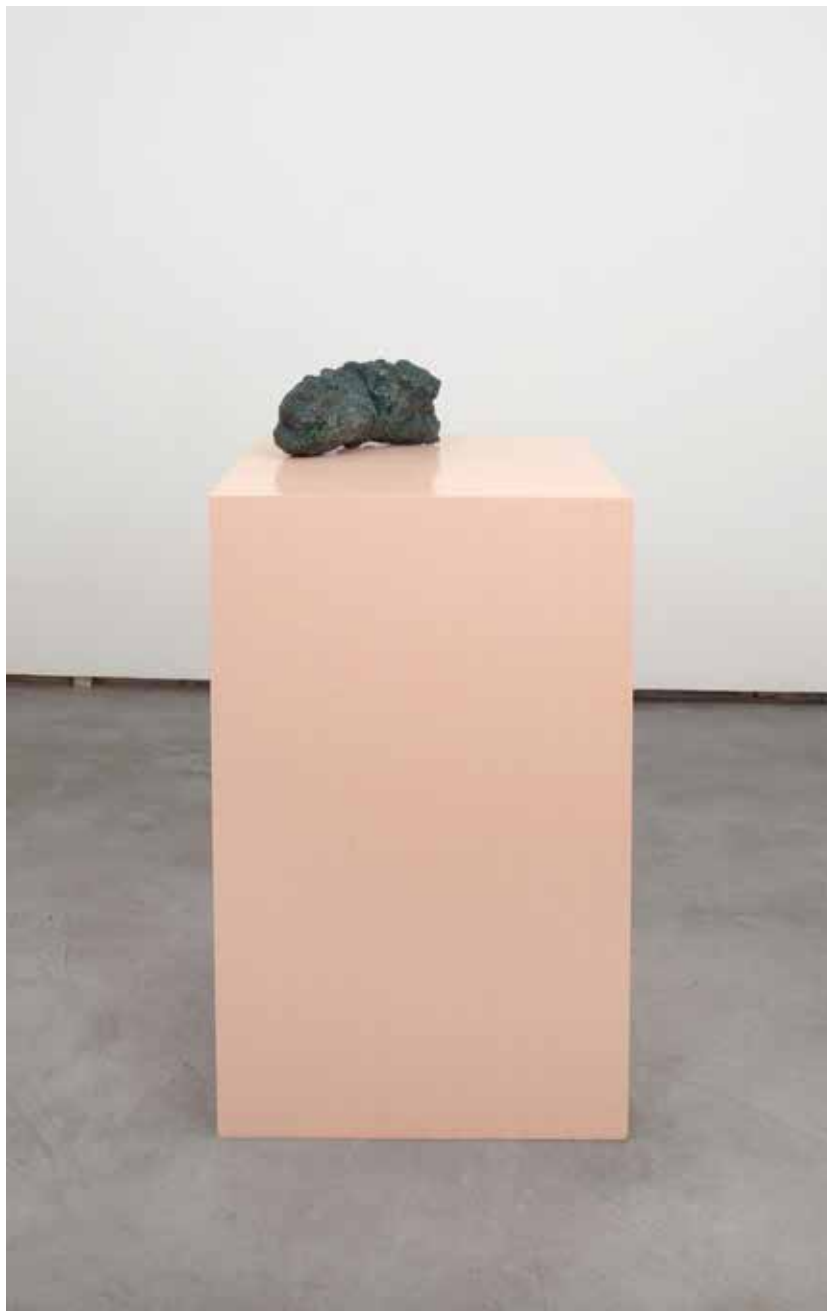


Karthik Pandian, *Chrysalis*, 2014, HD video still,
Courtesy of the artist and Grimm Gallery, Amsterdam

Perception is a process of subtraction. We select and isolate a rather narrow range of things to see, hear, touch, smell and taste from an infinite continuum of potential percepts. Like the film frame, perception imposes a limit on the emanation of light at the same time that it extends it, through projection, into new times and spaces. This contradiction is central to my work and to my concern with historical consciousness. The act of remembering carries with it an equal and perhaps even greater measure of forgetting. Rather than bring the forgotten to light, I work to bring the remembered to dark."

Karthik Pandian

Extract from an interview conducted by the artist Jay Heikes in 2014



Karthik Pandian, *Broken Claw (Mare Nostrum)*, 2012, bronze, MDF with enamel, 33 x 20 x 15 cm. Courtesy Federica Schiavo Gallery, Roma.

KARTHIK PANDIAN

Karthik Pandian is currently an artist in residence at the Centre international d'accueil et d'échanges des Récollets, Paris. He has held solo exhibitions at The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis; White Flag Projects, St. Louis; Vilma Gold, London; Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago; and Richard Telles Fine Art, Los Angeles amongst others. His work was featured in the inaugural Los Angeles Biennial at the Hammer Museum and La Triennale "Intense Proximity" at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris in 2012 as well as in recent group exhibitions such as "Film as Sculpture" at Wiels Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels, "Repertory" at Palazzo Cavour, Torino and the 4th Marrakech Biennale, Higher Atlas. Pandian's work has been the subject of numerous published writings, including "Openings" in *Artforum* and a catalogue essay by anthropologist Michael Taussig. In 2011, he was the recipient of a Louis Comfort Tiffany Award.



ABOUT BÉTONSALON

Bétonsalon – Centre for art and research strives to develop a space of reflection *on* and *in* society. Situated on the University Paris Diderot – Paris 7 campus and at the heart of a new developing urban district (ZAC Paris Rive Gauche in the 13th district of Paris), Bétonsalon works at the confluence of art and university research with the ambition to question normalised forms of production, classification and distribution of knowledge.

The activities of Bétonsalon are designed on a process-based, collaborative and discursive manner, following different time scales, in collaboration with various local, national and international institutions. They take several forms. The exhibitions are completed by several events (workshops, lectures, shows, round table discussions...). Seminars and workshops take place during the academic year in collaboration with the University Paris Diderot lecturers. Off-site research projects in partnership with other institutions are led to offer possibilities of residency to researchers, artists and curators.

Bétonsalon – Centre for art and research celebrates its 10 years anniversary in 2014.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TEAM

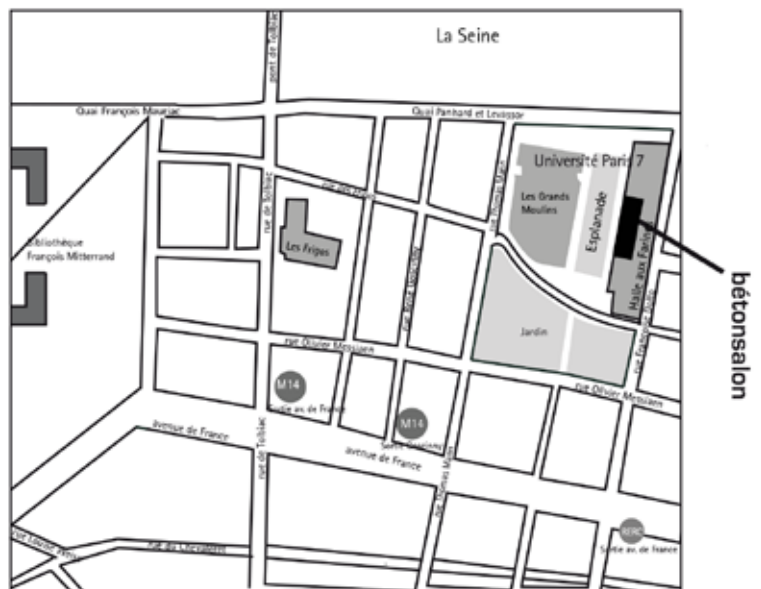
Mélanie Bouteloup, director
Marie Bechetoille, projects' coordinator
Garance Malivel, projects' coordinator
Marion Vasseur, intern
Hélène Cressent, assistant
Pauline Kieffer, assistant
Camille Paties, intern
Erica Johnson, research assistant
Jennifer Caubet, technician

ADVISORY BOARD

Bernard Blistène, chairman
director of the Centre Pompidou
Marie Cozette,
director of the art centre La Synagogue de Delme
Mathilde Villeneuve,
codirector of Les Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers
Guillaume Désanges, curator
Laurent Le Bon, director of the Centre Pompidou-Metz
Sandra Terdjman, independant curator and co-founder of
Kadist Art Foundation
Françoise Vergès, political scientist
The President of University Paris Diderot
Bertrand Delanoë, Mayor of Paris, represented by
Jérôme Coumet, Mayor of the 13th district of Paris
Véronique Chatenay-Dolto, Director of Île-de-France
Regional Board of Cultural Affairs – Ministry of Culture
and Communication

Bétonsalon - Centre d'art et de recherche
9, Esplanade Pierre Vidal-Naquet
Rez-de-chaussée de la Halle aux Farines
Paris 75013 - France
Postal address: Bétonsalon - BP 90415
75626 Paris Cedex 13 France

Opening times: Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-7pm
Free entrance
Access: metro line 14 or RER C
Exit 3, Rue Goscinny
Stop Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
Website: www.betonsalon.net
Contact: info@betonsalon.net



OUR PARTNERS

Bétonsalon is supported by the City of Paris, the Department of Paris, the Paris Diderot University, the Île-de-France Regional Board of Cultural Affairs - Ministry of Culture and Communication, Île-de-France Regional Council & Leroy Merlin (quai d'Ivry)



Bétonsalon is a member of TRAM, contemporary art network in Paris/Ile-de-France and d.c.a / the French association for the development of centres d'art.



d.c.a



Exhibition's partner:



Thanks to:

Kevin Ducrot, Gaëlle Gautier, Alain Assouline & Sarah Goldberg (Maker/Seine), Yannick Mauny, Sébastien Ronceray, Vilma Gold and Rhona Hoffman Gallery.