

## KENDELL GEERS

### *ProPaganDaDa*

From September 29th to November 5th 2016

Opening: September 29th from 7pm



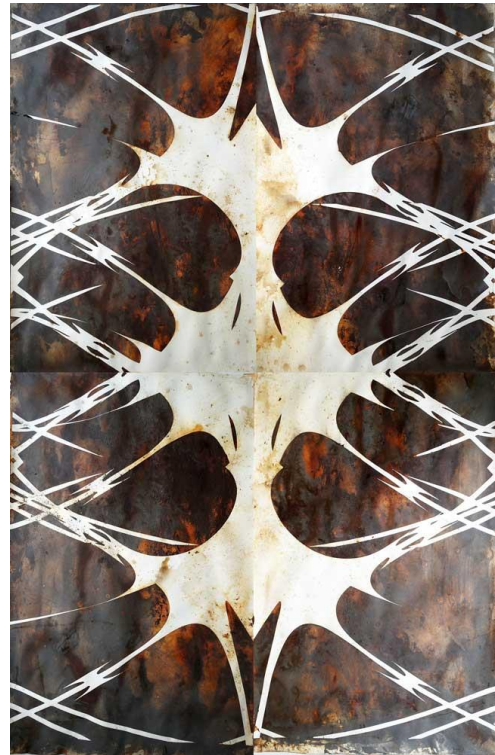
*[Text inspired by Pierre Olivier Rollin's "Corps à corps"]*

In his second solo show at ADN Galeria, South African artist Kendell Geers presents ***ProPaganDaDa***, a series of projects that question elements such as language, the art system, history, perception and spirituality. The artworks also challenge logical mechanisms and fixed structures.

Geers' work avoids any type of verbalization, even as the artist employs linguistic elements in his pieces, or he himself writes. Many critics have attempted to describe his work, despite it being irreducible to explanations, criticisms or exegesis. Writing about Kendell Geers' artistic production implies recognizing that the act of writing is not enough. In this case, writing is simply an uncertain, incomplete orientation; a palliative prosthesis.

In order to approach an exhibition by Kendell Geers, one must abandon all verbal weapons and accept a body to body with the artworks. That is, to accept that the body experiences and disputes with the intellect the authority of the "art comprehension". For a long time, emotions, feelings, sensitivity, etcetera, are states that have manifested the perception of art, but Kendell Geers transcends the common repertoire. He mobilizes a wider spectrum of corporeal affections: uncertainty, unease, anxiety, fear, terror, repulsion, loathing, strength, violence... But also its inseparable contraries: satisfaction, joy, laughter, pleasure, ecstasy, attraction, desire or orgasm. Geers' art also explores different paths that have been traditionally classified as paranormal and been dismissed by the Western approach to art. Western thought is primarily based in reason -meaning spirituality, mysticism, magic, shamanism, delirium, hysteria and trance are usually sidelined.

This conflagration of sense and emotions, this whirlwind of feelings and sensations are easily considered contradictory according to Cartesian spirits. They are so in their own right, because Kendell Geers' work finds pleasure in unraveling intellectual, plastic, emotional, moral and scenographic paradoxes. They are energy that give life to his work: the Virgin is a pornstar; fear engenders desire, trivia blends with beauty; noise becomes music.



Geers dynamites the logical foundations of thought by disorganizing the main vector of culture: structured language. "My biggest challenge is to overcome the limits of language", the artist confessed to curator Jérôme Sans. Solving conventional paradoxes is, for him, a dynamic force that settles the yokes of contemporary Western thought. Thus, Kendell's work destabilizes role models and values, and rejects any form of certainty: political systems, sexual models, economic value scales, moral or philosophical references, aesthetic conventions, artistic categories, etcetera. Nothing escapes from the unbalance. Neither love, nor death, nor art, nor the world.

*ProPaganDaDa*, the show at ADN Galeria, also reflects this controversy. Everything is put into question and is redistributed according to "foolish" logics. The biggest contradictions, the most categorical oppositions, the biggest differences, crash. This collision -that can only happen through the exhibition format- enhances a physical, unbalancing confrontation between the viewer and the artworks. Since it is impossible to hold onto language, to criticisms, to understandable explanations and ultimately to information (if there is any fallacious experience of art today, it is the internet), one must accept this body to body that Geers' artworks propose. *ProPaganDaDa* invites the viewer to experience firsthand what the pieces communicate and pushes him to abandon himself to the spirit's ramblings. It urges him to find communion with the articulated energy of his work.

The body to body that is imposed is not only unbalancing. It is also emancipatory. Geers' critical enterprise not only dismembers, but seeks and finds new voices, new opportunities. It explores virgin lands. Giorgio Agamben talks about "profanation". Not only in the religious sense that is imposed today, but also within a philosophical and political acceptance. That is, by means of restituting to common usage -entertainment, play, distraction- what has been displaced to the sphere of the sacred.

Kendell Geers seems to fulfill Agamben's desire in his shows. Profanation is, to him, a means without an end, a process in which we are invited to reformulate our relation to the world. The sphere of activities that the artist practices (and God knows if they are extensive! From art to religion, politics to History, good to evil, love to death, and so on) requires of us the same: to *stay* in the world.





## KENDELL GEERS\_ Bio

Kendell Geers (Johannesburg, South africa, 1968)

Kendell Geers' work puts into question moral codes and established principles. Using a wide spectrum of references -from history of art to pornography, kitsch or iconography-, the artist casts doubt on artistic value and the notion of originality. His work reveals a sharp sense of humor that plays with the viewer's repulsion and mocks all kinds of stereotypes. His political inclinations are deep, and his practice reflects it in confronting the established structures. The use of language, *ready made(s)*, neon, icons, films and other materials and objects are his ways to interpellate the viewer, whom he pretends to destabilize.



### *SOLO SHOWS (Selection 2003-2016)*

#### **2016**

*ProPaganDaDa*, ADN Galeria (2n edition Barcelona Gallery Weekend). Barcelona, Spain

#### **2015**

*SeaSonSinHell*, Gallery ACB, Budapest, Hungary (Show and Lecture)

#### **2014**

*Solve et Coagula*, Yvon Lambert, Paris, France

*Crossing the Line*, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England

*Ani/Mystik/AKtivist*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

*The Intoxication of Being Kendell Geers*, UnTubo, Siena, Italy

#### **2013**

Kendell Geers 1988-2012, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany

#### **2012**

*The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, Chateau Blandy-les-Tours, Melun, Paris, France

#### **2011**

*Hellraiser*, ADN Galeria, Barcelona, Spain

*No Government, No Cry*, CIAP, Hasselt, Belgium

#### **2010**

*Handgrenades from my heart*, Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels, Belgium

*Idoles*, Boissy-le Chatel, Paris, France

*Up in the Air*, Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall, Estocolmo; de gira a FRAC Montpellier, France and Contemporary Art Project Murcia, Spain

*Third World Disorder*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

#### **2009-2010**

*GUEST + A HOST = A GHOST*, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England

## 2009

*Irrespektiv*, Museo di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto (MART), Torino, Italy  
*REAM*, Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis, Missouri, USA  
*Not Something Else*, Tomio Koyama Gallery, Kyoto, Japan

## 2008

*Irrespektiv*, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon, France  
*Irrespektiv*, Da2 Salamanca, Spain  
*Oficina Para de Arte A.C.*, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico  
*PostPunkPaganPop*, dePury & Luxembourg, Zurich, Switzerland  
*Monsters and Stuff*, Gagosian Gallery, London, England  
*PRAYPLAYPREY*, Oficina Para de Arte A.C., Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

## 2007

*Kannibale*, Yvon Lambert, Paris, France  
*Auto-da-fe*, B.P.S.22 space for contemporary creation, Charleroi, Belgium  
*Irrespektiv*, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K.), Gent, Belgium; touring to BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead

## 2006

*The word made flesh*, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England

## 2005

*The Fall*, Sorry we're closed, Brussels, Belgium  
*Hung, Drawn and Quartered*, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, EE.UU.; toured to Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, EE.UU.(catalogue)  
*The Fall, Sorry, We're Closed*, Brussels, Belgium

## 2004

*The Forest of Suicides*, MACRO: Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma, Roma, Italy  
*In the Flesh*, Salon 94, New York, USA  
*Sexus*, Cimaïse et Portique, Albi, France

## 2003

*NOITUR(LOVE)*, Castello di Ama per l'arte contemporanea Lecchi in Chianti, Italy  
*Inferno*, CCA Kitakyushu Project Gallery, Japan (artist's book)  
*TerroRealismus*, Migros Museum, Zürich, Switzerland  
*Prototype*, Red sniper (with Patrick Condeyns), Grand salle, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France  
*Rogue States*, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, England  
*The Prodigal Son*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

## TWO-SOLO SHOWS

## 2013

*Heart of Darkness*. Diálogo con Maro Michalakakos, NEON, Greece

## GROUP SHOWS (Selection 2010-2016)

### 2016

*Bric-à-Brac*, The Jumble of Grow, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China

*The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Shanghai Biennale*, Shanghai, China

Volta12, ADN Galeria stand. Basel, Switzerland.

*BXL Universel*, La Centrale Electrique, Brussels, Belgium

*La Traversée des Inquietudes: Une trilogie librement inspirée de la pensée de Georges Bataille*. Curated by Lea Bismuth, Le Lab-Labanque de Béthune. Béthune, France

*Tribal*. En colaboración con la Galerie Bernard Dulon, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, París, France

*PUNK, Its traces in Contemporary Art*. Curated by David G.Torres. MACBA, Barcelona, Spain

*Something Old, Something New*. Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Bruselas, Belgium

*Footbaal: A la Limite du Hors Jeu*. Le Musée d'Aquitaine, Bordeaux, France

*Foot Foraine*, Gare Saint Sauveur, Lille, France

*New Revolutions*, Gallery Goodman at 50, Gallery Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa

*Portrait de l'artiste en Alter*. FRAC Normandie Rouen, France

*Les Possédés*. Friche La Belle de Mai, Marseille, France

*Shaping Ideas: Sculptures*. Lewben Art Foundation. Curated by Francesca Ferrarini at Art Vilnius, Vilnius, Lithuania.

*GlassFever*. Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht, Holland.

ArtBrussels, ADN Galeria. Bruselas, Belgium

### 2015

Untitled Miami – Art Fair. ADN Galeria booth. Miami, USA.

*Les mondes inversés*, curated by Pierre-Olivier Rollin. BPS22, Charleroi, Belgium

ArtInternational Istanbul. ADN Galeria booth. Istanbul, Turkey

VOLTA11 ArtFair. ADN Galeria booth. Basel, Switzerland

*PUNK, Its traces in Contemporary Art*, curated by David G.Torres. CA2M, Móstoles-Madrid, Spain / ARTIUM Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

*The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory revisited by Contemporary African Artists*, Frankfurt MMK, Frankfurt, Germany; gira a SCAD Museum of Art, Georgia, USA; Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, USA.; Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain; Correo Venezia, Italy; Hayward Gallery, London, UK.

### 2014

*Study from the Human Body*, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, UK

*INSERT 2014*: a cultural exploration of Delhi as a landscape for creativity and transformation, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, India

Ruffneck Constructivists, ICA, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

*The Drawing Room*, Magasin 3, Stockholm, Sweden

*Surfacing*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

*Slow Future*, Centrum Sztuki Współczesnej Zamek, Poland

Michelangelo e il Novecento, Galleria Civica di Modena, Italy

*The Disappearance of Fireflies*, Prison Sainte Anne, Avignon, France

*And the Trees Set Forth to Seek for a King*, Museum of the Seam, Jerusalem, Israel

*Pace Gems: Selections from the Linda Pace Foundation Permanent Collection*, San Antonio, Texas, USA.

*As I Run and Run, Happiness Comes Closer*, Hotel Beauburn, Paris, France

*Paradigm Store*, Howick Place, London, UK.

## 2013

*My Joburg*, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France  
*Artificial Amsterdam*, de Appel Arts Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*Carpenters Workshop*, Paris, France  
*Sex, Money and Power*, Maison Particulière, Brussels, Belgium  
*Transformator*, Zwevegem, Belgium  
*Picasso to Koons: The Artist as Jeweler*, The BAAS Museum, Miami, FL, USA.  
*Beyond Liaisons*, World Jewellery Museum, Seoul, South Korea  
*Monkey Business*, Galerie Sophie Scheidecker, Paris, France

## 2012-2013

*The Progress of Love*, The Menil Collection, Texas, USA.

## 2012

*Newtopia: The State of Human Rights*, Mechelen, The Netherlands; touring to various cultural institutions in Mechelen  
*Big Brother, l'artiste face aux tyrans*, Palais des Arts et du Festival, Dinard, Brittany, France  
*Mexico: Expected/Unexpected*, Katzen Arts Centre, Washington D.C., USA  
*The Rainbow Nation, Contemporary South African sculpture*, Museum Beelden aan Zee, El Den Haag- Scheveningen, The Netherlands

## 2011

*No Government No cry, a project by Kendell Geers*, CIAP Actuele Kunst, Hasselt, Belgium  
*The Right to Protest*, Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem, Israel  
*Mexico: Expected/Unexpected*, Museum of Latin American Art, California, USA; and Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, California, USA  
*All that Glitters*, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, UK  
*Terrible Beauty - Art, Crisis, Change & The Office of Non-Compliance*, Dublin Contemporary, Dublin, Ireland (catalogue)  
*The Luminous Interval*, The Daskalopoulos Collection, The Guggenheim, Bilbao, Spain (catalogue)  
*Celluloid Brushes*, Film Posters by artists, Etablissement d'en Face, Brussels, Belgium  
*It won't happen again*, Galleria Continua, Beijing, China  
*Eat me*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

## 2010

*Dominó Canibal*, Proyecto de Arte Contemporáneo Murcia, Murcia, Spain  
*Bern Biennale*, The Museum of Fine Art in Bern, Switzerland  
*The 29th Bienal de São Paulo*, Brazil New Monuments, Middelheimmuseum, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Lebenslust und Totentanz*, Kunsthalle Krems, Krems, Austria  
*UltraMegaLore - Fashion Icon*, Het Modemuseum Hasselt, Belgium  
*One Shot! Football and contemporary art*, BPS22 espace de création contemporaine, Charleroi, Belgium  
*Dada South?* Iziko Museums Of Cape Town, South Africa  
*Contemplating the Void*, Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA.  
*The Right to Protest, Museum on the Seam: Socio-Political Contemporary Art Museum* in Jerusalem, Israel  
*UltraMegaLore - Fashion Icon Testimony*, Modemuseum Hasselt, Hasselt, Belgium  
*Strengths and Convictions*, Nobel Peace Center, Oslo, Sweden  
*Lust and Vice: The Seven Deadly Sins from Dürer to Nauman*, Berna, Switzerland  
*México - esperado/inesperado*, Espace de création contemporaine, Charleroi, Belgium  
*Viaggio in Italia*, Palazzo Fabroni, Pistoia, Italy

Practical information

**KENDELL GEERS – *ProPaganDaDa***

Opening: Thursday September 29th 2016 / 7pm

On view from Thursday September 29th to November 5th de 2016

Opening Hours:

From Monday to Friday from 10am to 8pm

Saturdays from 11am to 3pm and from 5pm to 8:30pm

Press contact:

[info@adngaleria.com](mailto:info@adngaleria.com)

t. +34 93 451 0064