

## Press Release

**Bogen 51: Michel François / François Curlet „Senza titolo“**

**Bogen 52: Michel François „Autoportrait contre nature“**

21 May - 22 June 2002

Opening: Saturday, 18 May, 7-9 pm

“Even though Michel François works with the most varied media, such as sculpture, installations, photography, film and video, and uses the most varied materials, such as dried flowers and light bulbs, lumps of clay and PC screens, large wall photos and living plants, his artistic language is unmistakable. The visual homogeneity of his work groups results from the recurrence of the artist’s basic questions about to the relationship between the core and the shell, the external and the internal, between grasping and understanding, between the world and the ego. These questions have been familiar to sculpture for a long time, and in the 20th century they have placed sculpture at the centre of attention and scrutiny, after it had largely moved away from the traditional blocks of stone or wood. Nevertheless, Michel François derives fully innovative aspects and artistic solutions from this question of the relationship between the interior and exterior of volumes, bodies and rooms, whereby the haptic experiences of the human body, his answers to the question about how the world feels, and how these sensations are related to our other ways of perceiving and thinking, form the indirect reference point of all his works.”\*

The space 52 hosts a new large-scale installation by Michel François. In the space 51, Michel François invites François Curlet to present a series of works, which they realised together. Curlet is born in 1967 and lives and works in France and Belgium. François Curlet started to collaborate with fellow student Franck Scurti. The first collaboration with Michel François took place in 1996, in Fortlaan Gallery, Gent. Also, that year, François Curlet founded and registered the name People Day® as a trademark which enables him to assume the recycling of various micro activities of the everyday life. Following collaborations occurred with Stephane Calais, Michael Dans and lately with Pierre Huyghe and Philippe Parreno. Within the framework of the Ann Lee project, which is the fruit of his latest collaboration, François Curlet is invited to create a new life for the manga.

François Curlet enjoys playing, manipulating signs, inventing flyers, creating fictions and startling his audience. He exhibited in 2001 at the Stuttgarter Kunstverein. Following exhibitions will be at the C.A.N., Neuchâtel, in June, the M.A.C., Marseilles, in July, and at the Kunsthalle Zürich, in August, where the Ann Lee project will be shown.

Michel François was born in 1956 in Belgium where he lives and works. As well as exhibiting in many museums and institutions, he took part to Documenta IX, the Sao Paulo Biennial, the Johannesburg Biennial and the Venice Biennial.

Solo exhibitions 2000 - 2002: Kunsthalle Bern, Bern; Haus der Kunst, Munich; Foundation Miro, Barcelona; Centre de la Photographie, Geneva; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (new hanging).

\* Hubertus Gassner in “La Plante en Nous”, exhibition catalogue by the Haus der Kunst, Munich / Kunsthalle Bern, 2000.

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Yael Davids | A K Dolven | Tracey Emin | **Michel François** | Meschac Gaba | Hans Hemmert | Jonathan Hernández | Thomas Huber | Anne-Marie Jugnet & Alain Clairet | Aernout Mik | Jean-Luc Moulène | Peter Pommerer | Bojan Sarcevic | Erik Schmidt | Christian Schumann | Thomas Schütte | Santiago Sierra | Fred Tomaselli | Luc Tuymans