

The Kitchen

Olivier Mosset

“Exposition de groupe”

October 31 – December 20, 2013

For decades, Olivier Mosset has problematized conventional understandings of authorship and, by extension, interrogated the terms for painting’s circulation in the commercial sphere. Elaborating on his previous iterations of such ideas—during the 1960s as a member of BMPT (with Daniel Buren, Michel Parmentier, and Niele Toroni) and, over the following decade, as a founder of the New York-based Radical Painting group (with Joseph Marioni and Marcia Hafif)—Mosset now presents what he calls a “group show,” underscoring how the legibility of an artwork is possible only in the context of a larger, living collectivity. The exhibition takes place in downtown and uptown venues, reflecting a partnership between The Kitchen and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

At The Kitchen, Mosset’s large-scale, shaped monochromatic paintings—literally spelling out various words associated with works by Marcel Duchamp, including “Tu’m” and “Mutt,” effectively bringing together notions of the readymade and audience reception—are on view beside a projection of **Serge Bard**’s 1968 film *Fun and Games for Everyone*. This film famously captures the visages of the audience attending Mosset’s first gallery opening in Paris, which took place some months after the May ’68 protests (when it was clear, the artist observes, that nothing had changed). In turn, Mosset’s latest show is juxtaposed with his earliest; here, his continuing engagement with monochrome paintings on shaped canvases, commenting on resilient modes of production and exchange in art, are presented in a non-profit context.

At the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Mosset has mounted an installation of nine monochromes, alongside custom Harley Davidson and Triumph motorcycles, and a video collaboration with Amy Granat and Drew Heitzler. Originally screened as part of the 2008 Whitney Biennial, *T.S.O.Y.W.* (“The Sorrows of Young Werther”) is a 200-minute double projection following a young protagonist across the vast American landscape on a motorcycle, passing major earthwork sites along the way such as *Spiral Jetty*, *Lightning Field*, and *Sun Tunnel*. Mosset’s motorcycles are made in collaboration with Indian Larry (Lawrence DeSmedt), a motorcycle mechanic and stunt rider whose customized bikes were shown most recently alongside Mosset’s paintings in New York in 2007.

As part of the exhibition, Mosset will take part with friends and colleagues in sessions of **The Kitchen L.A.B.** on **November 2, 6pm**, with **Jacob Kassay** and **C. Spencer Yeh**. The artist also organized concerts taking place on Friday and Saturday, **November 22 and 23**, with Friday’s event featuring Tucson, AZ-based “one-man band” musicians **Al Perry** and **Al Foul**, along with New York-based bands **Airport Seven** (Steve DiBenedetto, Kevin Jones, and John Terhorst, who came together after various collaborations with artist Steve Parrino) and **Cornichons** (Jose Martos, Servane Mary, John Miller, Aura Rosenberg, and Dan Walworth); and Saturday’s event featuring **Arto Lindsay** and organist **Cory Henry**. Across generations, cultures, and artistic form and style, Mosset and his colleagues draw an unlikely through-line connecting themes of community, tradition, and abstraction.

The exhibition is curated by Thomas Delamarre and Sophie Claudel of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, and Tim Griffin of The Kitchen.

“*Exposition de groupe*” is free and will run **October 30–December 20** at **The Kitchen** (512 West 19th Street). Exhibition hours are Tuesday–Friday, 12–6:00 p.m. and Saturday, 11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Opening reception takes place October 30, 6–8:00 p.m. at The Kitchen. Paintings, custom motorcycles, and a video collaboration between Amy Granat and Drew Heitzler will be on view **October 31–November 21** at the **Cultural Services of the French Embassy** (972 Fifth Avenue).

Funding Credits

“*Exposition de groupe*” is made possible with support from Koenig & Clinton, Spencer Brownstone Gallery, Dedalus Foundation, Inc., and the Cowles Charitable Trust.

Programs at The Kitchen are supported with public funds from New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



About The Kitchen

The Kitchen is one of New York City’s most forward-looking nonprofit spaces, showing innovative work by emerging and established artists across disciplines. Our programs range from dance, music, performance, and theater to video, film, and art, in addition to literary events, artists' talks, and lecture series. Since its inception in 1971, The Kitchen has been a powerful force in shaping the cultural landscape of this country, and has helped launch the careers of many artists who have gone on to worldwide prominence.

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About Cultural Services of the French Embassy

The Cultural Services is a division of the French Embassy in the United States, first imagined in the 1930s by Paul Claudel. In 1945, General de Gaulle appointed Claude Lévi-Strauss as the first Cultural Counselor, with the mission of providing Americans with access and resources to engage with French culture and promote it in their own communities. Today, under the leadership of Antonin Baudry, Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy and Permanent Representative of French Universities in the United States, the French Cultural Services provides French and American artists, intellectuals, arts professionals, and the general public a platform and resources for cultural exchange. It is dedicated to creating transatlantic dialogue in the arts and education from French and American perspectives. Based in New York City, Washington D.C., and eight other cities across the US, the French Cultural Services’ principal fields of action are the arts, literature, cinema, French language programs and higher education.

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