

MEDIA RELEASE

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contemporary art spaces

Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces in partnership with the Melbourne International Arts Festival presents

Fabien Giraud & Raphaël Siboni **Les Choses Qui Tombent**

OPENING: Friday 9 October 2009

EXHIBITION DATES: 9 October – 14 November 2009

Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces is pleased to present a major new installation by French artists Fabien Giraud and Raphaël Siboni as part of the 2009 Melbourne International Arts Festival.

In this new project commissioned specifically by GCAS and MIAF, Fabien Giraud and Raphaël Siboni will create a multi-disciplinary installation work that explores the estimated 110,000 pieces of space debris currently orbiting the earth. Over the past few years, the US Space Command has compiled a list of these man-made objects that are loose in the great beyond. As a captivating portrait of human detritus, this ever-growing inventory includes astronauts' gloves, cameras, frozen pee, screwdrivers, plastic bags and solar shields.

Mixing airsoft, tuning, punk, hard-core, and the Guinness Book of World Records, the work of Fabien Giraud and Raphaël Siboni lies at the boundary between art, pop culture, and entertainment. Linking vernacular with mass consumption and folk with pop, their practice tends to produce complex, often spectacular objects and events that question the possibility of contemporary subjectivity.

Since 2007, Fabien Giraud (b. 1980) and Raphaël Siboni (b. 1981) have collaborated on art projects while simultaneously developing their own individual practices. Fabien Giraud gained notoriety in 2006 with his installation *Sans Titre (Rodage)* at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, France - a work that presented an impressively strange vision of a community of the future. Part sculpture, performance, and experiment in socialization, Giraud put a new twist on the phenomena of anthropomorphic.

Raphaël Siboni recently directed the film *Kant's Tuning Club* (2006), in which an avatar of the philosopher Gilles Deleuze rubs shoulders with "car-tuning" enthusiasts.

Paired as a collaboration, the two artists share an interest in community experiences, horrific bad taste, and various delinquent subcultures. Their collaborative projects have been presented at the Grand Palais, Paris, France (2009); Centre d'Art de Neuchatel, Switzerland (2009); SITE Santa Fe Biennial, New Mexico, USA (2008); Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2008) and the Biennale de Lyon, France (2007).



This project is presented in partnership with the Melbourne International Arts Festival, with the support of CulturesFrance and RMIT University.

For further information or images, please contact Emily Cormack

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