

# 12<sup>th</sup> Biennale de Lyon

from 12 September 2013  
to 05 January 2014  
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**MEANWHILE...  
SUDDENLY,  
AND THEN**

For Immediate Release  
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## Focus on 9 Artists Works Newly-Commissioned for the 12<sup>th</sup> Biennale de Lyon

Artistic director  
Thierry Raspail

Curator  
Gunnar B. Kvaran

### **Jonathas de Andrade**

**b. 1982 in Maceió, Brazil.  
Lives and works in Recife, Brazil.**

Based on an almost anthropological process of historical, textual and photographic documentation, Jonathas de Andrade's work comprises conceptual installations that highlight the amnesia affecting some of the social, political, cultural and ideological realities of today's world. For the 2013 Biennale Jonathas de Andrade tells the story of the "Nego bom" ("black candy"), a very popular candy in Northeast Brazil. As the artists stated, "In the local markets, there is a popular slogan that says '40 Nego bom por R\$ 1,00', something like '40 black candies for R\$ 1.00'. Vendors shout this slogan in the streets to sell their candy. The project starts with this slogan as a title." His piece for the Biennale de Lyon "consists of a series of instructions for preparing this particular candy from the perspective of a homemade factory. 40 different men can be counted among the staff working in the various scenes of the production line. Each photograph is accompanied by a text; part of the recipe for making the candy. With this project, I intend to take the temperature of post-colonialism, post-slavery, and cheap labor today. The project thus has a second part, which is a sort of a financial accounts document describing how much this black candy production line costs. But instead of straightforward quantities and prices, the work presents each of the 40 characters according to their qualities and defects, and how much each costs, as understood by the fictional owner of the factory."

### **Trisha Baga**

**b. 1985 in Venice, United States.  
Lives and works in New York, United States.**

Trisha Baga works on the cusp between observation and investigation, using video, installation and performance to optimize her receptivity to the world. Approaching 3D video from a handmade perspective, she attempts to "find the shape of a narrative, reduce it to its intrinsic grammar that has been shaped by culture and representation, and then use that found shape to engage viewers". For Lyon, she will be working on a new installation whose starting point is the climate change and which will include 3 projections and 3 paintings. As the artist puts it, "The final work will be some sort of 3D video projected onto some sort of textured, painted surface, with perhaps an object or few in the way. When the 3D video is all white light at depth level 0, we call the surface 'a painting'."

### **The Bruce High Quality Foundation**

**Collective founded in 2004 in New York, United States.**

The Bruce High Quality Foundation members deliberately remain anonymous so as to 'protest against the star-making machinery of the art market.' Renowned for a style combining subversion, humor and erudition, the collective aims 'to invest the experience of public space with wonder, to resurrect art history from the bowels of despair.' The Bruce High Quality Foundation comes to the 2013 Biennale with a look at the concepts of breathing, the psyche and healing, with an object in shape of Antonio Canova's "Psyche Revived by Cupid's Kiss."

In the collective's own words: "The large object floats upon the breath. Expand and release. Up and down. The large object rises and falls in the air as though on the chest of a sleeping giant. The large object has a small voice.

The small voice tells us a story. It is a series of memories and reflections on those memories. It is thinking and trying. It is piecing together a history. The story reminds us of many images. Many images are projected onto the large object. They seem to chase the voice in an attempt to make sense of its story. The images are tangential, illustrative, contrarian. Through their attempt to understand the voice, they establish an identity outside its story."

## **Ed Fornieles**

**b. 1983 in Winchester, United Kingdom.**

**Lives and works in Los Angeles, United States.**

Ed Fornieles explores the impact of the virtual on the physical world – or maybe vice versa. In the artist's own terms, Internet is "part of a chain which generates content for a studio practice, supplying me with current narratives, images and material that inform and guide the production of sculptural and live performances. This will later have the chance to feed back into more online sites and performances – and so the cycle continues." His project for the Biennale de Lyon 2013 takes as a starting point an online sitcom he's been developing on Facebook, twitter and other social media networks, "following the lives of seven ambitious young men and women as they make their way in the world", and from which he will create a new series of pictures and installations.

## **Tavares Strachan**

**b. 1979 in Nassau, Bahamas.**

**Lives and works in New York, United States.**

Outer space and the depths of the ocean: these places test the capacity of matter and the human body to stand up to hostile environments and extreme experiences, and Strachan studies their invisible forces in installations reflecting extensive scientific and historical research. For the Biennale de Lyon, Tavares Strachan will take a fresh look at the little-known story of Sally Ride, America's first woman astronaut and whose achievements fell into oblivion until she died a few years ago. Through a series of new sculptures, drawings and installations, Tavares Strachan will explore both history and his own past, as he remembers being obsessed with Ride's achievements when he was a kid.

## **Nate Lowman**

**b. 1979 in Las Vegas, United States.**

**Lives and works in New York, United States.**

Nate Lowman mingles the detritus of pop culture with that of the everyday. The upshot is a resounding, exhilarating reinterpretation of contemporary imagery. For the Biennale de Lyon, Lowman will show a new set of paintings meant to be read as a single work and based on illustrations taken from different flight safety manuals collected over the years. The frames in this work are taken out of their original context and sequence. A selection of clear and neutral frames, some of them sexually suggestive in some way, have been selected and reproduced as paintings so as to create a story-board – a new narrative that will be accompanied by other groups of paintings.

## **Yang Fudong**

**b. 1971 in Hebei, China.**

**Lives and works in Shanghai, China.**

Yang Fudong's films lay bare the profound changes in contemporary values triggered by China's galloping modernization. The classical, timeless beauty of these visual narratives brings a fine balance to their examination of the shaping of identity by myth, memory and personal experience. His project for the Biennale de Lyon is about the real and fake life of an actress and how one sticks to his/her social identity. Filled with archive elements, films and installations, Fudong's work will address the potential effects of a life, both real and fake, of an actress who may, or may not, have been involved in many films.

# As part of the Biennale de Lyon performance week-end 19/20 october 2013

## Xavier Cha

**b. 1980 in Los Angeles, United States.  
Lives and works in New York, United States.**

Xavier Cha's project is, in her own words, "a performance, possibly in a progressively altered mental state, while taking self portraits with my phone and/or a borrowed ipad, posing for a series of "selfies" which will immediately be posted to social media sites with various hashtags. I will remain deeply engrossed in this "selfie" project at an appropriate location in the Biennale that will serve as an "interesting" backdrop for taking self portraits for social media purposes, as well as taking "#artselfies" through out the exhibition- using the Biennale as an opportunity to take and post "interesting" self-portraits, rather than viewing the show with my own set of eyes and thoughtfulness. Thus the show's narrative becomes filtered as a visual backdrop for personal social media presence."

## Georgia Sagri

**b. 1979 in Athens, Greece.  
Lives and works in New York, United States.**

Georgia Sagri's project for the Biennale de Lyon "will examine the eventuality of the strike and in particular the art strike. Taking the historical precedent of the Artists' Coalition, it will propose, revisit, and establish a new model of the Art Strike today. From a set that will serve as a headquarters for production and distribution of material as well as meetings, this performance will not just be a reenactment of a historical moment but will test the viability of this proposition today; it aims to exist beyond the realm of the Biennale or the museum space."

*\* These artists have been commissioned to create a new work. For the 2013 edition, 80% of the works have been newly-commissioned.*

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### The Biennale de Lyon 2013

Novelists and screenwriters always hope they have an interesting story. These days, politicians too and advertisers are all on the look-out for a good story that can be used to influence voters and consumers. Not only are there "countless forms of narrative in the world", as Roland Barthes would have it, but now they are everywhere and an integral part of our daily life.

For the Biennale de Lyon 2013, I have invited artists from all over the world who work in the narrative field and use art to experiment with the modalities and mechanisms of storytelling. The exhibition gives pride of place to the ingenuity and inventiveness of contemporary artists in undoing mainstream narrative codes and off-the-peg plotting devices in order to tell new stories differently.

The art of these artist-storytellers comes in many and varied forms and uses a wealth of different registers, materials and techniques. So the exhibition naturally includes sculptures, paintings, fixed images, animated images, arrangements of text, arrangements of sounds and of objects in space, as well as performances. It highlights the way (or rather 'ways') in which young artists of today - according to whether they work in Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa or North America - are imagining the narratives of tomorrow: narratives that do without the suspense and excitement of globalized fiction as practised in Hollywood, on television, or in the best-sellers of world literature. Theirs are totally new narratives that defamiliarise us with the world and restore the deep-rooted strangeness and complexity that classic storytelling devices have always sought to iron out or to stifle. These are art narratives that enable us to see and understand the world in a new light and more intelligibly.

**by Gunnar B. Kvaran, Guest curator of the Biennale de Lyon 2013**

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### About La Biennale de Lyon

La Biennale de Lyon is a non-profit body that devises, produces and stages two major international events in alternate years: The Dance Biennale and the Biennale of Contemporary Art. Since the first Lyon Biennial in 1991, its Artistic Director, Thierry Raspail has invited a Guest Curator to organize the exhibition in response to a "key word". For the 2013 Contemporary Art Edition Guest Curator Gunnar B. Kvaran has responded to the key word "transmission" with the theme of "narrative". Titled "*Meanwhile, Suddenly, and Then...*", this edition will include works by more than 70 international artists, 80% of which are newly-commissioned. The Biennale takes place from September 12th, 2013 until January 5th, 2014 in several venues throughout the city.

**For more information visit : [biennaledelyon.com/uk](http://biennaledelyon.com/uk)**

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