

XAVIER VEILHAN TAKES ON VERSAILLES

After Jeff Koons, the French artist Xavier Veilhan will be exhibiting contemporary work at Versailles, just outside Paris. As Agence France-Presse reports, the president of Versailles, Jean-Jacques Aillagon, announced that Veilhan will enjoy "carte blanche" for his exhibition, which will take place this fall at the former residence of the Sun King, Louis XIV. Unlike Koons, who installed sculptures both inside the palace and outside in the surrounding gardens, Veilhan will be placing his works in the gardens only. According to the report, Aillagon said that Veilhan's works will be created in relation to the castle and the people who made the building. Aillagon also took the opportunity to celebrate 2008 as a "good year" for the former royal residence, which welcomed 5.6 million visitors last year—a 5 percent increase over the previous year. One million visitors alone experienced the "success" of the Koons exhibition, despite protests from various learned societies and an unsuccessful lawsuit from an alleged heir of the Sun King to cease the show.