

ARTE FUSE

ABSTRACT, CONCEPTUAL ART, EUROPE, INSTALLATION, PARIS, PHOTO STORIES, REVIEWS AND PHOTO STORIES

Photo Story: Mel O'Callaghan's Dangerous on-the-way at Palais de Tokyo

4 DAYS AGO by **GUEST WRITER**







Mel O'Callaghan – whose work could be discovered during the Nuit Blanche 2016 (under the artistic direction of Palais de Tokyo) and at Palais de Tokyo during the festival DO DISTURB 2, in April 2016, is here continuing her reflections about ritual as a form of expression of the human condition, and the processes of self-transformation which emerge from the tireless repetition of the same actions.

For her solo show at Palais de Tokyo, Mel O'Callaghan went to North East Borneo so as to attend the traditional harvesting of birds' nests, a particularly dangerous ritual, performed twice a year by the Orang Sungai people, at a height of over 120 meters – going up to the summit of Simud Putih, or the “white cave” of Gomantong. Combining sculpture, performance and video, *Dangerous on-the-way* focuses more specifically on the ekstasis this ritual induces, that physical and mental state described in Greek philosophy as being “outside oneself”.

Curator: Daria de Beauvais

Winner of the SAM Prize for Contemporary Art 2015

A monographic book published by SAM Art projects accompanies this show.

As part of the exhibition:

Performance *To Hear With My Eyes*

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Duration: 45 min.

Every day, performers are handling various objects symbolising the stages needed to access an “ecstatic trance”, according to the method developed during the 1970s by the Anthropologist and Linguist Dr. Felicitas D. Goodman, the founder of the Cuyamungue Institute.

Free access, on presentation of an exhibition entry ticket.

Exhibition

From 03/02/2017 to 08/05/2017

Open every day except Tuesdays, from noon until midnight.

Performance as part of the exhibition on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 7:30 p.m. / Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Duration: 45 min.

Talk on Friday February 10

8 p.m.

“Observation was key. I was conscious of travelling there with no preconceived notions of their people and practices and of what I might achieve. I had no interest in approaching this with an ethnocentric focus. I was not there to tell their story. I was simply fascinated to witness a ritual as a form of artistic practice that appeared in some ways to mirror my own.”

Mel O’Callaghan

Writing provided by the gallery on through their website.

TAGS: ART IN PARIS, CONCEPTUAL ART, CONTEMPORARY ART, DANGEROUS ON-THE-WAY, GALLERIE PARIS, MEL O’CALLAGHAN, PALAIS DE TOKYO, PARIS ART, PHOTO STORY