

Centre Pompidou



January 2018



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ExpoBroombergChanarin

BROOMBERG & CHANARIN
Divine Violence, Genesis
2013
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AKADEMIE DER KUNSTE

PRESS RELEASE **BROOMBERG & CHANARIN** **DIVINE VIOLENCE**

21 FEBRUARY - 21 MAY 2018

GALERIE DE PHOTOGRAPHIES, FORUM-1

In the Galerie de Photographies, the Centre Pompidou is presenting for the first time a monumental piece by artists Adam Broomberg and Oliver Chanarin, *Divine Violence*, which recently entered the collection.

Violence and questions relating to it are central to the artistic approach of this duo, who are celebrating twenty years of collaboration in 2018.

This radical, provocative installation consists of 57 frames, each corresponding to a book in the Bible, and brings together its 721 pages. It compares the patent violence expressed in the Bible with violent images from today's world.

To create this series, the two artists took inspiration from Bertolt Brecht's personal Bible, which he annotated and illustrated with cuttings from newspapers during the Second World War. They themselves took the 1611 King James Bible, illustrating it chapter by chapter, with no explanations or comments, by inserting prints of photographs from the Archive of Modern Conflict. This private collection containing tens of thousands of vernacular images produced by the press or amateurs is certainly the photo collection with the most abundant archive content on the violence and absurdity of war. On each page of text, the two artists highlight in red a passage reflecting the image chosen. Through this very simple, implacably effective process, Broomberg and Chanarin confront the sacred text with anonymous photographs from the Archive of Modern Conflict, emphasising the icons and visual stereotypes of violence. The breadth of its subject (the Bible) and its radical method make *Divine Violence* the magnum opus of the two «artist-editors».

The exhibition also reveals their sources of information : educational and propaganda books illustrated with photographs denouncing violence or, in contrast, glorifying it. Some of these books from the 1920s and 1930s contain the work of thinkers who used editing and photography to support and disseminate their ideology, whether Conservative or progressive.

Adam Broomberg (b. 1970 in Johannesburg, South Africa) and Oliver Chanarin (b. 1971 in London, UK) are artists who live and work between London and Berlin. They teach photography at the Hochschule für bildende Künste (HFBK) in Hamburg, Germany. As a duo, they have been the subject of numerous exhibitions, including at the Hasselblad Center (2017). Their work features in major public and private collections.

At the same time, in Galerie 4, the Centre Pompidou is presenting a retrospective on the photographer David Goldblatt. Like him, Broomberg and Chanarin have connections with South Africa. Simultaneously contrasting with and echoing each other, their documentary approaches are those of artists inspired by the innumerable images of a media-dominated world.

CURATOR

Florian Ebner

Chief curator of the photography
departement, musée national d'art
moderne

in collaboration with the Akademie der
Künste, Berlin

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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Hôtel de Ville, Rambuteau

Opening hours

Exposition open from 11am to 9pm
every day except tuesday

Price

Free entrance

www.centrepompidou.fr

AT THE SAME TIME AT THE CENTRE POMPIDOU

CÉSAR

LA RÉTROSPECTIVE

13 DECEMBER 2017-26 MARCH 2018

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SHEILA HICKS

LIGNES DE VIE

7 FEBRUARY- 30 APRIL 2018

press officer

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JIM DINE

14 FEBRUARY - 23 APRIL 2018

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DAVID GOLDBLATT

21 FEBRUARY - 13 MAY

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LATTIF MOHIDIN

28 FEBRUARY - 28 MAY 2018

press officer

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CHAGALL, LISSITZKY, MALEVITCH

L'AVANT-GARDE RUSSE À VITEBSK (1918-1922)

28 MARCH - 16 JULY 2018

press officer

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