January 2018

communication
and partnerships department
75191 Paris cedex 04

Director
Benoît Parayre
telephone
00 33 (0)1 44 78 12 87
e-mail
benoit.parayre@centrepompidou.fr

Press officer
Eloïde Vincent
telephone
00 33 (0)1 44 78 48 56
e-mail
eloïde.vincent@centrepompidou.fr

www.centrepompidou.fr

# ExpoBroombergChanarin

BROOMBBERG & CHANARIN
Divine Violence, Genesis
2013
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PRESS RELEASE
BROOMBBERG & 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 department, musée national d’art moderne
in collaboration with the Akademie der Künste, Berlin

Practical Information

Centre Pompidou
75191 Paris cedex 04
telephone
00 33 (0)1 44 78 12 33
subway
Hôtel de Ville, Rambuteau

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

Price
Free entrance

www.centrepompidou.fr

César
La Rétrospective
13 December 2017-26 March 2018
press officer
Timothée Nicot
01 44 78 69 87
timothee.nicot@centrepompidou.fr

Sheila Hicks
Lignes de vie
7 February- 30 April 2018
press officer
Dorothée Mireux
01 44 78 46 60
dorothee.mireux@centrepompidou.fr

Jim Dine
14 February - 23 April 2018
press officer
Anne-Marie Pereira
01 44 78 40 69
anne-marie.pereira@centrepompidou.fr

David Goldblatt
21 February - 13 May
press officer
Elodie Vincent
01 44 78 48 56
elodie.vincent@centrepompidou.fr

Lattif Mohidin
28 February - 28 May 2018
press officer
Dorothée Mireux
01 44 78 46 60
dorothee.mireux@centrepompidou.fr

Chagall, Lissitzky, Malevitch
L’avant-garde russe à Vitebsk (1918-1922)
28 March - 16 July 2018
press officer
Anne-Marie Pereira
01 44 78 40 69
anne-marie.pereira@centrepompidou.fr