

## Press release – Exhibition

### *Presque la même chose / Translation as Negotiation*

Ignasi Aballí, Alex Baladi, Cathy Berberian, Pierre Bismuth, Julia Bodamer, Gérard Collin-Thiébaud, Nicolás Lamas, Ilan Manouach, Antoni Muntadas, Till Roeskens, Sébastien Roux, Thu Van Tran, Martina-Sofie Wildberger

→ “From the impossible to the possible: the experience of languages in Louis Wolfson’s work”, a lecture by Frédéric Martin;

→ “Translating colour: seeing and thinking differently”, a lecture by Annie Mollard-Desfour, linguist-lexicographe;

→ Works of tribal art from private collections.

Curated by Sandrine Wymann

**February 12<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Press conference: Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm at La Kunsthalle

Opening Reception: Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 pm

Translation is everywhere, in all forms, it is neither a science nor an instinct, it communicates thought and facilitates travel. *Translation as negotiation* is an attempt to understand others.

This exhibition is clearly part of a set of questions asked by Umberto Eco in “Mouse or Rat? *Translation in Negotiation*”, an essay on his experiences in translation. In his view, translation does not allow us to say the same thing, but at best, almost the same thing. He continues by highlighting that all the complexity of the task lies in the word *almost*. This *almost*, central but indefinite, appears as an elastic and extensible adverb to be used as a form of “negotiation” This is at the heart of any attempt at translation. What value should we give the word almost? Translation can be applied to all forms of language, written, aesthetic or auditory, and that each has its own perimeter for negotiation.

In *Translation as Negotiation*, Umberto Eco uses a series of examples and personal accounts to illustrate the problems which translation poses. *Translation as Negotiation* takes up the thread of his text, chapter by chapter, and the artists and artworks are at times providing a response, and at times building on the questions the author raises. The idea is not to create a corpus of artworks related to the subject, but rather to continue the reflection through formal or textual research, but also through knowledge or personal stories. Artworks, conferences and portraits, without any hierarchy, are also making up the content of this exhibition, which is a modest attempt at saying how difficult it is to negotiate a translation.

fondation suisse pour la culture

This exhibition is supported by Swiss Arts Council.

**prohelvetia**

#### Opening hours

Open Wednesday to Friday, noon to 6 pm

Saturday and Sunday, 2 pm to 6 pm

Late-night opening Thursdays until 8 pm

Closed Mondays, Tuesdays and April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

Free admission

#### La Kunsthalle Mulhouse - Center of Contemporary Art

La Fonderie

16 rue de la Fonderie

68093 Mulhouse Cedex

tél : + 33 (0)3 69 77 66 47

kunsthalle@mulhouse.fr

[www.kunsthallemulhouse](http://www.kunsthallemulhouse)

Enquiries/Press office: Clarisse SCHWARB

Tél. +33 (0)3 69 77 66 28

[clarisse.schwarb@mulhouse.fr](mailto:clarisse.schwarb@mulhouse.fr)

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La Kunsthalle is member of d.c.a / association française de développement des centres d'art, Arts en résidence – Réseau national, Versant Est et Musées Mulhouse Sud Alsace.