

PRESS RELEASE

EXHIBITION

GALERIE DES CYPRÈS

JUNE 5TH TO AUGUST 29TH 2016

OPENING ON

SATURDAY JUNE 5TH AT 6 PM

Eva Barto, *: to set property on fire*

Eva Barto developed the project *:to set property on fire* from the story of Pierre-Joseph Arson, his mystical quest of the absolute and of power. She developed her project around the realms of gambling, the stock exchange and the perpetual desire for gain, creating a “speculative zone” in the galerie des Cyprès, while avoiding the usual markers of an exhibition.

PRATICAL INFORMATIONS

HORAIRES

Open every day except Tuesday
from 2 PM to 6 PM in June
from 2 PM to 7 PM in July and August,
Free admission.

VILLA ARSON

20 avenue stephen liégeois
F-06105 Nice cedex 2
tél. +33 (0)4 92 07 73 73
servicedespublics@villa-arson.org
www.villa-arson.org

The project *:to set property on fire* started with the story of Pierre-Joseph Arson, who at the beginning of the 19th century dilapidated his fortune under the influence of the celebrated mathematician Josef Hoëné-Wronski, in the search of an impossible absolute.

This story inspired Honoré de Balzac in his novel *La Recherche de l'absolu* (*The Search for the Absolute*), in which the hero Balthazar Claës precipitates his family into bankruptcy through his equally vain quest, that of transforming metal into gold.

Balthazar Claës' frenzy for gain by transforming matter, and Pierre-Joseph Arson's insatiable quest for power, are decisive obsessions which Eva Barto seized in order to confront them and to inscribe them in the space of the galerie des Cyprès of the art center, transformed into a speculative zone for the occasion.

The exhibition is inspired by the universes of the stock exchange and of gambling, where the foremost goal is constant gain. Structures and objects are deposed from their use, allowing incomplete and divided forms to appear. The material residue from this ruin becomes necessary currency circulating only unofficially.

Eva Barto questions the economy of the exhibition by diverting the means meant for its production, running the ambiguous risk of loss, especially by endangering the budget for the exhibition by investing portions of it in events outside the Villa Arson.

Curator: **Eric Mangion**

PRESS CONTACT

Michel Maunier
communication@villa-arson.org
tél. +33 (0)4 92 07 73 91

La Villa Arson is a public administrative establishment under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture and Communication.

It is supported by the Région Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur, the Conseil départemental des Alpes-Maritimes and the City of Nice.

La Villa Arson is a member of UCA - Université Côte d'Azur and be a part of BOTOX[S].

EVA BARTO

graduated from the ENSBA (École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts) in Paris in 2013. Eva Barto then participated in the international post degree program at the ENSBA in Lyon in 2014.

She has had several one-woman shows at the IFAL (Mexico), at the BF15 (Lyon), at Primo Piano (Paris) and more recently at the gb agency gallery (Paris).

THANKS TO

Simon Bérard, Clarisse Charlot-Buon, Mathieu Schmitt, Yan Rovere, Jean-François Torres, the interns at the Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris), the Louis Nucéra library (Nice) and the entire team at the Villa Arson.

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