



Joachim Biehler

Joachim Biehler, the chameleon artist

He has the smile of Sophie Calle's Mona Lisa, the crazy hair of an ORLAN, a Gilbert and George tweed suit and the childish pout of Damien Hirst...so who is Joachim Biehler ? An artist with a thousand faces, who hides himself behind that of a celebrity. Nonetheless, a bit of certainty about his biography ? He would have been born in 1981, having obtained his DNSEP to graduate from beaux-arts de Perpignan in 2009. Since then, he would return to his homeland, Moselle, in order to profit from the "new cultural dynamism" of Metz, where he collaborates at the art centre Faux Movement in parallel with his artistic practice. As for the rest, it needs to be explained using the traits of others: in his series *Like Project* the chameleon artist mimes with the attitude, mannerisms and allure of all sorts of stars of contemporary art. "It's clear in this work a want for the young artist to one day have the same status, by infiltrating here", he confides in a lively voice itself full of lightness. "But there is also a certain irony in the ensemble, that since knows 40 portraits. Irony applied especially to me." Because these plastic surgeons reach as far as their reputation, he admires them without restraint, without shame. To start with ORLAN the discovery of whom has been essential to his job as a plastic surgeon, who firstly devoted herself to a career as a dancer and comedian. "All ORLAN's work on the body and aesthetic surgery fascinates me and I have the same attraction for people like Eva and Adele, who are works of art in themselves," he emphasizes. In reference to this pioneer, Joachim Biehler has started another project intitled *Kiss the Artist*, it consists simply of the artist's kiss to...another artist. Big smacker to Annette Messager, Fabrice Hyber or Claude Lévêque : a gesture that clearly recalls the piece pioneered in 1977 where ORLAN offered her mouth to passers-by. "I promised myself that I would end this series once I had met her and I always walked around with a five-franc piece in my pocket in case I met her, in case of...and one day, she arrived, I was able to speak to her on the platform of Metz train station," he tells us. He seems still moved, having learnt how to be a fan by working as an assistant for Matthieu Laurette, true maestro in the subject. Thus having been well taught, Joachim Biehler finds himself another tutelary figure in the person of Warhol, to whom many of his works nod to, notably his recent exhibition at the gallery Géraldine Banier, in Paris. "I can't deny my pop influences, my fascination for merchandise, these are the motors for me, my art is named after everyday objects, from Haribo sweets to noodles for soup...", explains Joachim Biehler. But his main subject matter remains his own body, a tool of collaboration for images that he mimes, in company of his friends Jean-Luc Verna and Pierre & Gilles, snapshots of the history of art. The project he dreams of : to perform a Virgin with Child in collaboration with the scandalous south-African Steven Cohen.

Emmanuelle Lequeux



Works

Oxymore I - 2007
Performance





As the fake and ugly princess - 2008
Photomontage





Pieta - 2009
In collaboration with Pierre & Gilles
Series of 80 photographic slides & projector
Installation





The football player - 2009
In collaboration with Pierre & Gilles
Vidéo - 1 minutes 37





Annonciation - 2010
In collaboration with Jean Luc Verna
Series of 80 photographic slides & projector
Installation





Oh mummy we walk on it ! - 2011
Stuffed animals & chocolate
Installation





Like Project (details) - 2012 / 2013
Photomontage - Installation





Like Cindy - Like Gilbert & Like George - Like Pierre & Like Gilles - Like Andy - Like Jeff



Like Tracey - Like Sophie - Like Jana - Like Daniel - Like Marina - Like Yayoi

Kiss the Artist (details) - 2012 / 2014
Polaroids



Kiss The Artist

As often in his work, Joachim Biehler makes a reference to heritage, to a work of art. He truly joins in a history of contemporary art and considers his citations and affiliations. *Kiss the Artist* is effectively an echo of one of ORLAN's works: *Le Baiser de l'Artiste (The Kiss of the Artist)*. A performance that has become mythical since in 1977, at the start of the FIAC, the artist was seen having a real kiss with visitors. For five francs, a direct, carnal contact was established between herself and the public. The work of art was no longer on a screen, it became action. The artist revealed herself to the eyes of the public as a piece of merchandise, becoming available to buy as a short-lived kiss. The codes were redefined. Joachim Biehler has wished to relive *Le Baiser de l'Artiste* by bringing a new reading. He confides having always carried a five-franc piece since 1977 'in case of' bumping into ORLAN. A Kiss with her represents a possible end to the series. To kiss artists, Joachim Biehler follows a simple strategy: armed with an Polaroid camera, he goes to openings ('beacons of the jet/art/system'), ceremonies, or profits well from informal meetings, unexpected seeings. In his line of sight: the artists that he can count on, those who are part of his route, of his influences. Once the target understands, he approaches them, discusses and finishes by kissing the artist, with their consent. Since 2012, he constructs in this way a collection of instant snapshots where his mouth kisses the cheek of another artist. Friends and/or icons, those he admires, groupie of a system. Completely like ORLAN, he gives himself over to a short-lived, new practice, in an extremely restricted time. The mark of the kiss is obtained by the taking of the Polaroid, an medium also very singular as it is non-reproducible in its primary form. This attachment to the Polaroid comes from a fascination taken in the work and life of Andy Warhol. This last developed in the celebrity system of contemporary art, he feeds it, by playing with it and using it in his own work. Joachim Biehler pursues this meeting work, in a virtual and real manner, to underline in a funny and falsely naive way the downward spiral of a world where appearance, images and contacts take priority.

Julie Crenn



Kiss Ben - Kiss Claude Lévêque - Kiss Eva with Adele - Kiss John Giorno



Meeting with the artists Eva & Adele, 2012
Centre Pompidou Metz



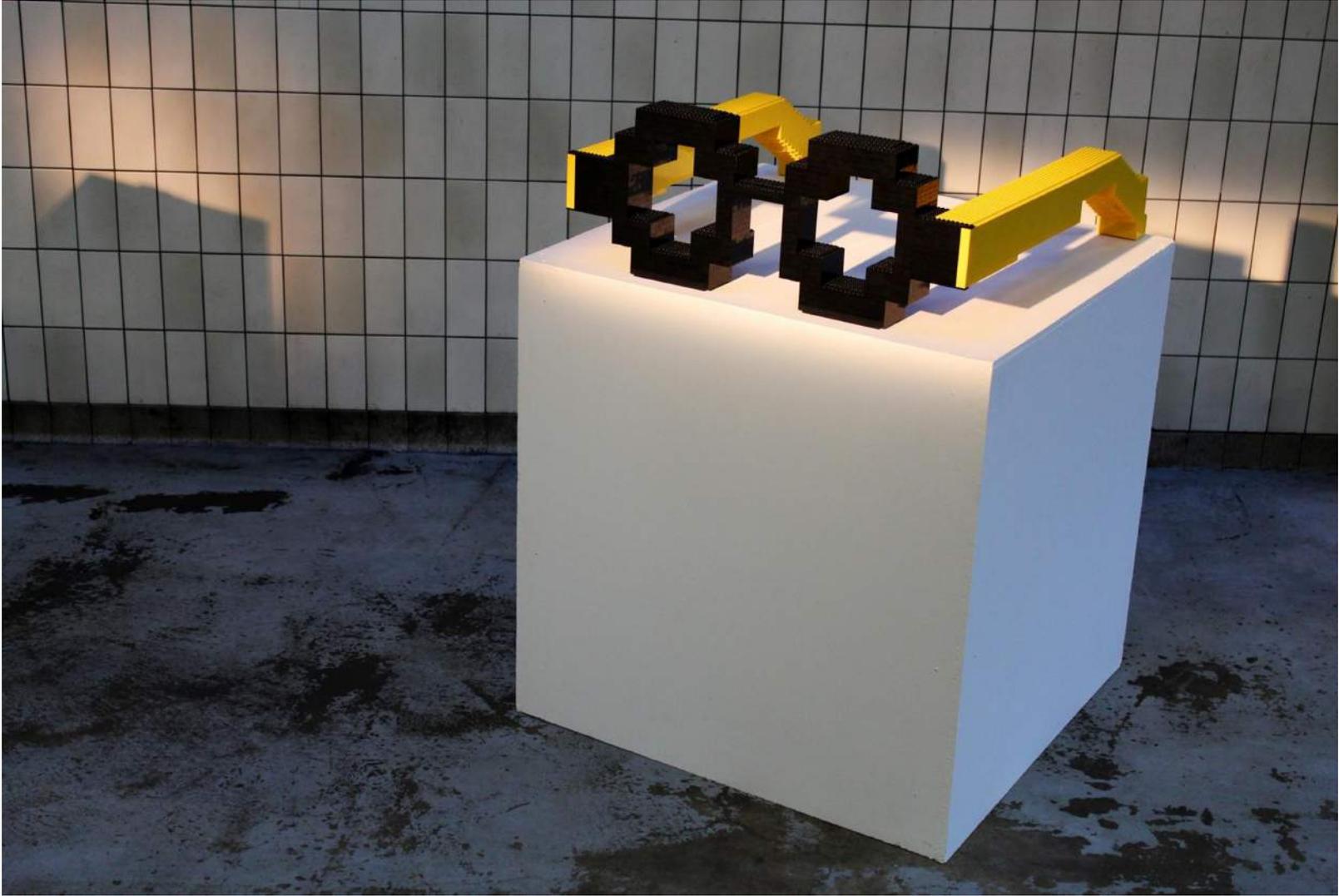
*Kiss Ben - Kiss John Giorno - Kiss Matthieu Laurette - Kiss Adele - Kiss Eva with Adele - Kiss Claude Lévêque -
Kiss Olivier Mosset - Kiss Annette Messager - Kiss Jean Luc Verna - Kiss Fabrice Hyber - Kiss Brice Dellsperger - Kiss ORLAN*



Kiss ORLAN on LEGO © bricks

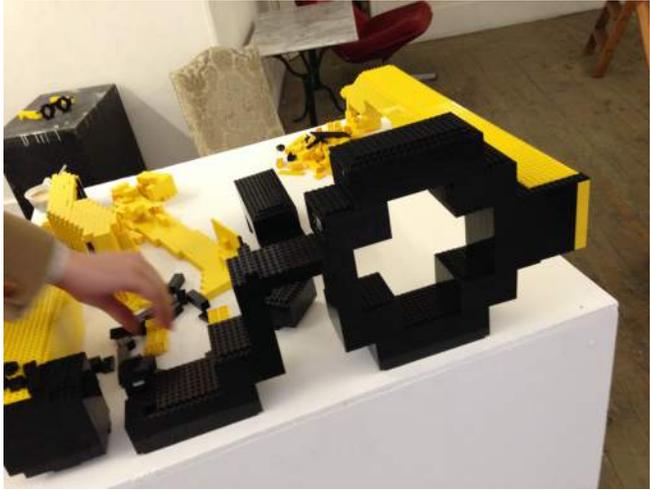
Art Glasses - Like ORLAN part I - The show, 2013
LEGO © bricks
Sculpture





Art Glasses - Like ORLAN part II - The matrix / deconstruction and construction, 2013
LEGO © bricks
Performance





The big bath - 2013
In collaboration with Pascal Lièvre
Photomontage





Cover - 2014

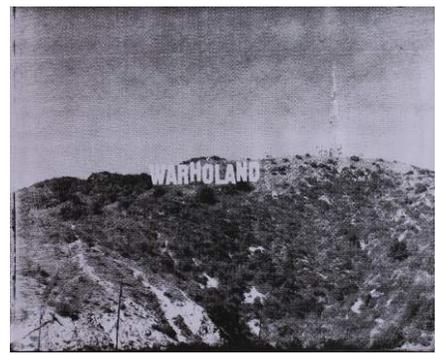
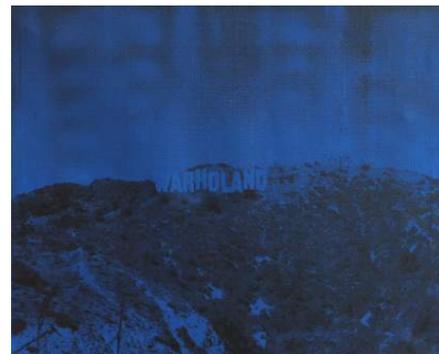
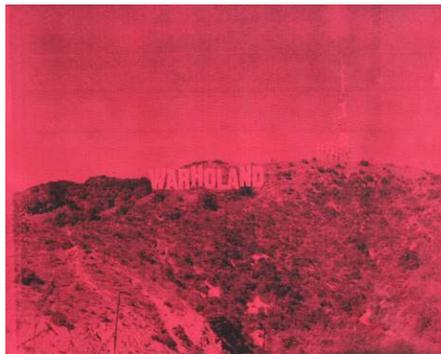
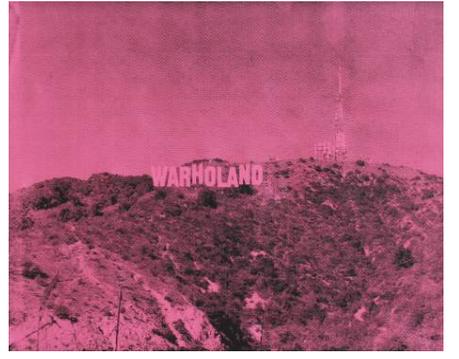
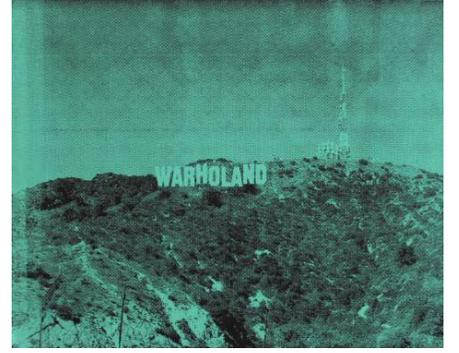
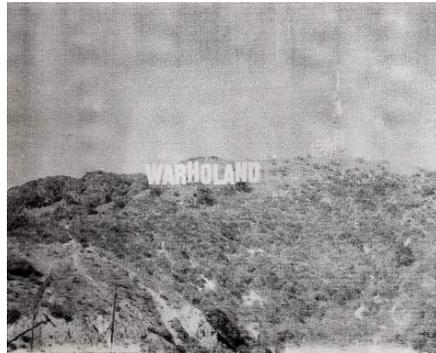
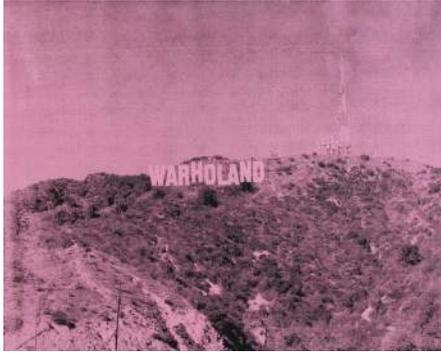
Reproduction of former etching - glass - wood - gummy candy - varnish - porcelain eyes
Installation





WARHOLAND (*details*)- 2014
Series of 20 silkscreen on painted canvas.





Andy Kiss me (art fiction) - 2014
Digital photomontage on polaroids - made with Impossible Instant Lab ©





15 seconds to 15 minutes - 2014

After John Baldessari - Your Name in Light - La Monnaie de Paris

Video - 15 minutes





Noodle quotes - 2014
Andy Warhol's quotes write with alphabet noodle on painted canvas
Painting





I ALWAYS NOTICE FLOWERS

MAKING MONEY IS ART
AND WORKING IS ART
AND GOOD BUSINESS IS THE BEST ART

UTRA DEAD - 2014
digital sketch
collage - glass - wood - Synthetic wig -
Installation





Funky Andy - 2014
After Andy Warhol's Self portrait, 1986
Photomontage





Share a coke with - 2015
After Andy Warhol's Coca-Cola, 1962
Study for silkscreen





As never seen on TV - 2014 /2015
By Jacky & Jacky (Joachim Biehler & Violaine Higelin)
Photomontage

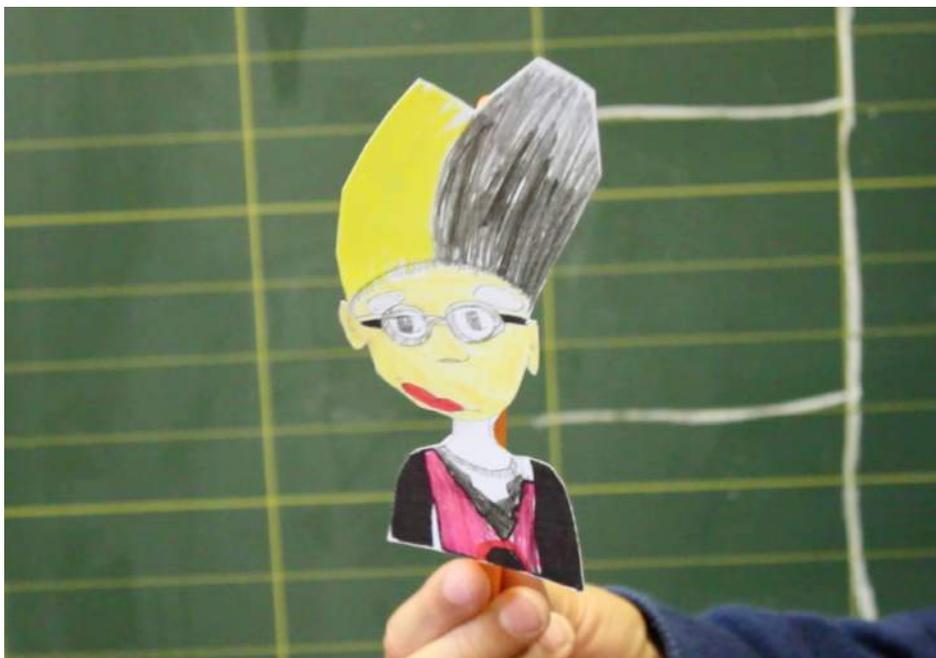




Workshop

Let's play art- 2014
Workshop with children (6 / 11 yo)
Video and drawings





Heroes- 2014 - 2015

Workshop with children (5 / 10 yo)

Photography - photomontage

Project supported by the Ministry of Culture and Communication (DRAC Lorraine),
the Ministry of Education (DSDEN 57) and the *Cour d'Or* museum in Metz





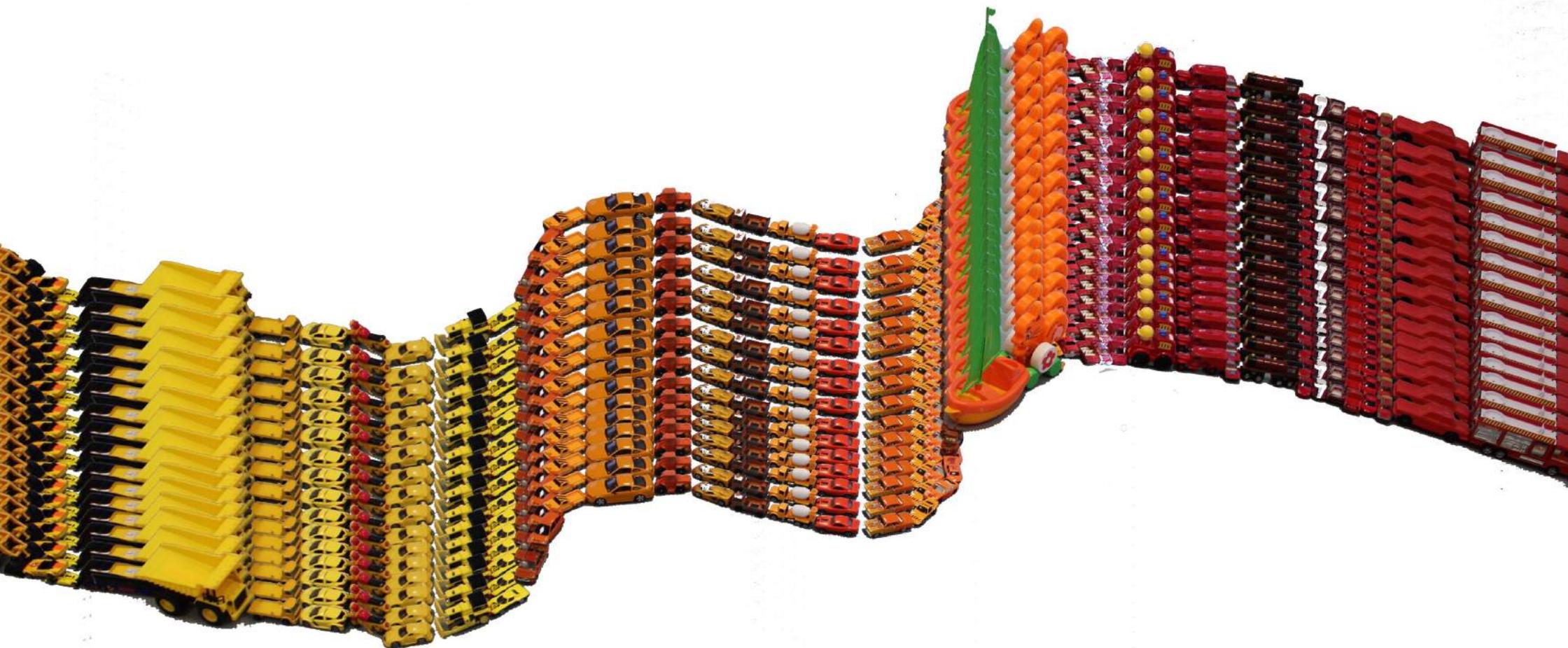
Like Delaunay - 2015

Workshop with children (6 / 7 yo)

Performance and photomontage

Project supported by the Ministry of Culture and Communication (DRAC Lorraine),
the Ministry of Education (DSDEN 57) and the Centre Pompidou Metz





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