

## **Jean Louis Maubant**

(August 25, 1943 - September 5, 2010)

Jean Louis Maubant was born in Le Havre (France). After studying Sociology, he first starts a career as a journalist in Lyon, specialised as political and cultural editor in newspapers and a national TV channel (FR3). This media experiment stops after May 1968 and he joined the "décentralisation dramatique" in 1969. Initially he moves to Saint-Étienne as administrator and general secretary of the Comédie de Saint-Étienne, working in partnership with Jean Dasté until 1972, then to Le Creusot as director of the Centre d'Action Culturelle (1972-1974) and finally in the Théâtre de Bourgogne (Burgundy 1974-1976).

In 1976, the Town of Lyon offers him the occasion to launch and manage the first space devoted to contemporary art (Elac). He manages the Elac until 1978 and organises several exhibitions (American art in French private collections, Art and women). In parallel, the School of art of Mâcon recruits him as professor (sociology of art), and he continues his chronicles of architecture.

In 1978, he founds an art contemporary center: the Nouveau Musée with a group of friends, from economic and political backgrounds. The aim is to make an independent art institution alive, reserved for contemporary art, focused on creation and the relationship between artists of all kinds, society and the public. The aim is also to innovate outside of the traditional institutional framework. Artists are invited for a year (D. Buren, T. Cragg, G. Paolini), the spaces used are usually not normative (the Lyons statuary for Buren, an old factory transformed into workshop for Cragg, the seat of a bank for an exhibition on Land Art or the seat of the Berlioz Festival for another on the video art...).

Nouveau Musée sets up an exhibition space in 1982 in Villeurbanne, in an old school. This is the beginning of the international recognition of the young contemporary art center. More than one hundred exhibitions have followed, amongst which many have travelled abroad (A. Boetti, B. Lavier, L. Fabro, J Wall, G. Paolini, D. Graham, Artistes/Architectes, O. Kawara, Radical Architecture) and the artists have been carrying out diverse projects according to the very particular spaces which will be renovated in 1992.

From 1992 to 1995, he is President of the DCA Association, Directors of Art Centers, and from 1995 to 1996, Vice-President.

In 1998, the Nouveau Musée and the Frac Rhône-Alpes merge and are baptised Institut d'Art Contemporain (IAC). This Institute shows what the French structures of contemporary art of a new generation could be. Indeed this exhibition space is able to compete with European contemporary art institutes, and the Rhone-Alps Collection allows an in-depth work on a regional scale.

Jean Louis Maubant continues to get involved in the management of the Maison de l'Architecture Rhône-Alpes which he used to run as vice-president. He also gives conferences on diverse topics (the institutions of the art world, Utopia, the current relation between art & architecture...) and to publish (Guide de l'architecture Rhône-Alpes, Carports of artists in Lyon, as well as many articles on art and architecture...).

He has also been the curator of many exhibitions (*Les Magiciens de la terre* with J.H. Martin in 1989, *Utopia* in Portugal in 2001, *Micro Utopias* for the first Biennale of Valencia in 2003). At the end of 2004, he will be the French curator invited by the Montreal Biennale and curator of the exhibition *Avenirs de Villes/Future for Cities* for Nancy 2005.

In 2006, he's the curator of Yona Friedman solo show, *Utopias realizables (architecture for the layman)*, at the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo in Sevilla and the exhibition on the Roger Pailhas Gallery at the Musée d'art Contemporain in Marseille.

In 2008, to celebrate the thirty years of the Institute of Contemporary Art, he is the curator of the exhibition *Ambition d'art*. This high and exceptional time at the Institute gives rise to the organization of an international symposium, a route of exhibitions of works from the IAC collection in the region (*Ambition d'art bis*) and the realization of an important edition: *Ambition d'art: Alphabet* (vol I); *Archive* (Volume II) (presses du réel, 2008).

He is Officier des Arts et Lettres and member of the scientific committee of the CariVerona Foundation in Verona (Italy) and the Andalusian Center of contemporary art in Sevilla (Spain).

The year of death in 2010 he signs the co-curating of two exhibitions, *Matisse at the Alhambra* in Granada and *The Stein Collection* at IVAM in Valencia.