

Biennale internationale design

Saint-Étienne **10 ANS** 15 → 30 NOV. 2008

GAELE GABILLET

Graduated from the ENSCI - Les Ateliers (*École Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle*) in 2001. Gaëlle Gabillet works in Paris as a designer. In 1999, she created her first stage work for the Museum of Decorative Arts (1), and in 2002 set up her own creation studio. She works for many public and private institutions and recently created the *25 ans aujourd'hui* exhibition for the ENSCI – Les Ateliers, as well as the *So Watt! – du design dans l'énergie* exhibition for the EDF Foundation.

Gaëlle Gabillet considers that stage design constitutes a terrain for research and experimenting in design. For her, what matters is not so much the relationship with space, in the sense of interior layout, but rather the relationship to the object and the subject of the exhibition itself. The materials, the scale relationships and the forms used closely reflect this (2).

The manner in which the exhibitions are set up go beyond a mere support role, and invent narrative procedures, offering a *viewpoint* on what is exhibited, literally and figuratively. The ideas are made into a scenario, expressed by means of micro-architectures (3), surprise installations (4) and strange objects (5). The drawings are highly demanding. Certain pieces of furniture were subsequently commissioned for public and private installations (6).

There is a genuine desire to create atypical worlds (7), with pervasive atmospheres (such as liquid image fountains) in which the viewer's attention is drawn, sometimes in a disturbing way, to the subject of the exhibition and the objects exposed. This intention is also evident in the attempt to create genuine living spaces in the exhibition (8).

In a manner of speaking, this is original stage art inventing strategies in order to create a new way of seeing what is exhibited. Stage design in this context serves as a bridge between the subject of the exhibition and viewers' sensitivity.

(1) - “**Jean Royère, décorateur** » exhibition, **Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, 1999**”, jointly with Mathieu Lehanneur.

(2) - 20 km of woven electric cable. “**So Watt! du design dans l'énergie**” exhibition. **Espace EDF Electra, Paris, 2007**

(3) – Re-interpreting bus shelters in wire structures, stage design of the travelling exhibition « **En attendant le bus du futur** », **RATP, Brussels, Geneva, Paris, 2006**

(4) – Boubous (African garments) being made to breathe. Stage design for the “**Le Boubou, c'est chic**” exhibition, **Musée des Arts Africains et Océaniens, Paris, 2002**

(5) - Sales of light-boxes, “Pas de vie sans lux”, for the “**Lumières subjectives**” exhibition, **15 square de Vergennes, Paris, 2003.**

(6) - “Cool” Tables for the **ENSCI restaurant area– Les ateliers et Consoles “clous”** for private interior decorating, **Milan & New-York, 2008**

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(7) - 400 m2 of structures made entirely out of paper for the "25 years today " exhibition, ENSCI-Les Ateliers, Paris, 2008.

(8) - Bar with images and public fountains for the **"25 ans aujourd'hui", exhibition l'ENSCI-Les Ateliers, Paris, 2008.**

She is a member of the Métaphorm' group, which carries out design research and experimenting. She participated in **"Design de gestes" [Gesture Design], 2006 Saint Étienne International Design Biennial.**

She created the "Sweet-Home" installation for **Nuits Blanches 2007.** She contributes to and participates in "design and stage design" workshops in arts and design schools.

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