

French Academy in Rome - Villa Medici



## VILLA APERTA 2013

Pop, Electro, Rock Music Festival

4th edition

5 - 8 June 2013

### CLAIRE DITERZI

In 1863, the “*Salon des refusés*” exposition gathered over three thousand artists who had not been accepted by the official jury of the Salon of Painters and Sculptors. Manet’s celebrated *Déjeuner sur l’herbe* was one of the rejected works, which aroused great scandal. Claire Diterzi, who loves to flirt freely in libertine fashion with classical painting (viz. her memorable *Tableau de chasse* in 2008), has ironically taken possession of this historical episode. By adding a final ‘e’ to *Les Refusées* (*The Refused Women*), she has re-evoked her appointment to Villa Medici (she was the first artist in “*musiques actuelles*”) which gave rise to petitions and controversies. Back from Italy, she sings the joys and melancholy of love and exile with songs about Rome accompanied, by a baroque viola da gamba.

### LAETITIA SADIER

Laetitia Sadier has been the enchanting militant voice of Stereolabs, one of the most unfathomable bands of English (post) pop-rock. When her artistic partnership with Tim Gare broke up in 2009, the French artist embarked on an interesting solo career with the albums *The Trip* and *Silencio*, and some tear-jerking guest appearances like the one in *Quick Canal* by Atlas Sound. In her own way, Laetitia Sadier is one of those rare musical heroines who has accompanied us over the past twenty years trying to open our eyes to the remotest perspectives of the contemporary world.

### CONCRETE KNIVES

The Frenchies of Concrete Knives attracted the attention of Simon Raymonde, ex-Cocteau Twins and head of the label Bella Union with a single concert. How to resist the acceleration and loop of their instinctive, acrobatic free songs? And who could have imagined that *Clap Your Hands Say Yeah* or *Happy Mondays* would have had successors in Flers, a small French village in the Orne region? Ideally pop, the compositions of Nicolas Delahaye, the muted voice of Morgane Colas, the inexhaustible enthusiasm of Adrien Lepretre, Augustin Hauville and Guillaume Aubertin have become one of the great sensations of the year on stage with their debut album *Be Your Own King*.

## **TERAKAFT**

In the language of Sahara, the name Terakaft, the group founded in Mali in 2001, means caravan and the KelTamasheq are the people who speak Tamasheq, or the Tuareg language. Accompanied by electronic arabesques, their songs tell the story of a real people living between laughter and tears, exactly the opposite of the reductive clichés seen so often in the press. The producer of the album, British guitarist Justin Adams, has captured the passion that nurtures the desert rock pervaded with blues, a music that also represents the identity card of the last nomads of Africa.

## **MASTER MUSICIANS OF JOUJOUKA**

The celebrated music played by the Master Musicians of Joujouka, who come from a remote village in Ahl Srif, a tribal area south of the Rif in north Morocco, is thousands of years old. It is Sufi trance and therapeutic music able to transcend all epochs. American writers Timothy Leary and William Burroughs used to call them "The four thousand year old rock'n'roll band." During the 1950s Beat Generation writers and painter Brion Gysin discovered the Master Musicians after having encountered Mohamed Harrari, an artist from the same village, and in 1968, the animus of the Rolling Stones, Brian Jones, recorded the seminal *Brian Jones presents the Pipe of Pan at Joujouka* (Rolling Stones Records 1971), cited as the first worldwide album. During the past five years, the Master Musicians have often met with Billy Corgan of the Smashing Pumpkins, who claimed that they were the best non amplified group on the planet. In 2011 they recorded an album together with Jane's Addiction, were nominated for a Grammy award, and had great success at the Glastonbury Festival in Great Britain. The Master Musicians of Joujouka have not compromised themselves with a traditional homage to the Sufi trance of their origins and ancestors.,

## **ARNAUD REBOTINI**

*Burn Your Own Church*, Jack Strobe's debut album, caught everyone by surprise with its hard-rock tones and its way of opposing the current ordinary electro-pop aesthetics. In 2007, Arnaud Rebotini shut himself up in his studio to forget the surrounding software and other plug-ins, in order to be free to exhume and exploit old machinery he had accumulated over the years. His album, *Music Component*, deriving from this rediscovery of diodes and the other transistors, is a homage to classical electronics and the philosophy that lies behind techno music: long, repetitive, instrumental pieces that are both powerful and full of melancholy. Artists like Oliver Huntemann, Zen Kei and The Rapture or the Depeche Mode have commissioned remixes from him. In 2011, while always maintaining a qualified retro-futurist style, he gave yet another proof of his electronic crudeness in *Someone Gave Me Religion*. In November 2012 he released *Pagan Dance Move*, the EP with The Hacker & Gesaffelstein's ZONE Records; a satanic electronic techno that is both dark and profound.

## **CHRISTINE AND THE QUEENS**

One night three years ago in London, a girl encountered some transvestites, musicians. She came from the theatre and books, while the Queens went off stage, The name Christine & the Queens is the memo of a second birth. Christine is the new identity of the girl, while the Queens are a constant inspiration to her, and it all sounds like a magic formula that consents all sorts of audacity. Alone on stage, with no instruments, without a net, she is inspired by her idol, dancer-artist Michael Jackson, and the often ignored kamikaze aspects of comic prankster Andy Kaufman.

Shortlisted for the Chorus award, Christine has been part of the Chantier des Francos and has gone on a grand tour of France thanks to the "*Les femmes s'en mêlent*" Festival in 2012. She also won the "Découverte du Printemps de Bourges 2012" and the "Adami Premières Francos 2012" prize within the ambit of « Francofilies » in La Rochelle. Her new EP *Nuit 17 à 52* will be released by the label Because on 3 June 2013.

## **EROL ALKAN**

As the man behind the notorious nightclub Trash, Erol Alkan is a master of finding himself in the right place at the right time: thanks to the success of the LCD Soundsystem, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and The Rapture, the Trash events have made it one of the most influential clubs of its time. Trained as a DJ at Bugged Out! and after devoting himself to remix and work as producer, today Alkan alternates his DJ career with the development of his "Phantom Sound", producing albums with artists like the Mystery Jets. Alkan's reputation as a great tastemaker reflects on the popularity of his blog which has won several awards and is considered one of the most significant in the Dance scene. Erol realized the sublime *Bugged Out Mix* for the club in 2005, followed this September by *Another Bugged Out Mix/Another Bugged Out In Selection* with K7 Records including tracks of the Kompakt techno of Kolsch and Jan Hammer's cosmic 1970's disco

## **MIND ENTERPRISES**

After having formed a post-punk band in Turin before he was twenty, Andreas Tirone immediately longed for the more vibrant British musical scene. Today, installed in London, the sound of Mind Enterprises has a crude low-fi quality that comes from his basic passion for guitar music. An explosion of electronic oscillations full of melancholy emotions, his songs transcend any geographic position and are like flashbacks in a lucid dream, more than any structured melody scribbled on a computer. His first single *Summer Way* was realized with Double Denim Records last summer, and his debut album will be released in May 2013, produced by the Because Music label.

## **KLAXONS**

They are three, they sing and have become famous with a style bordering punk, crossed with traditional rock and modernity. Simon-Taylor Davis, Jamie Reynolds and James Righton met during their studies at Nottingham and were soon joined by drummer Stephan Halperin in 2006, a year full of events that placed them in second position on the hit parade in Great Britain after the release of their first single, *Gravity's Rainbow*. Their rock-punk salsa lightened by psychedelic and passionate pop and their debut album *Myths of the Near Future*, released by Polydor, won the Mercury Prize in 2007. Some say they are actually at the origin of the "nu-rave" movement, conceived by Joe Daniel, founder of Angular Records, the Klaxons' first record company. Their rapid success induces them to produce a new album. After various delays with their record company and numerous worldwide tours, the album *Surfing the Void* is released in 2010. The Klaxons continue to attract attention thanks to their experimenting with sound and constant search for novelty.

## **KRISMA**

In 1975 Maurizio Arcieri forms the KRISMA duo with Christina Moser. Their sound is a mix of punk and avant-garde electro music. Their first albums *Chinese Restaurant* (1977) and *Hibernation* (1979) are produced in London by Nico & Vangelis Papatuamassiou. Their third album, *Cathode Mamma*, with Hans Zimmer, producer of the Ultravox and The Buggies, is a great success throughout Europe, followed by *Clandestine Anticipation* in 1982. The duo are also involved in other art and video projects (*Pubblimania*, *Sat Sat*, *Imagina* for Rai3) and produce the "Krismatv". From the year 2000 they pass on to web music with the *Chybermation* project (2009). In 2012 they go live again opening a series of concerts for Franco Battiato. In over forty years of career, the Krisma and their "made in Italy" electro pop have proven that 1980s Italian music was fully capable of absorbing and experimenting with state-of-the-art European sound. The Krisma will play *Clandestine Anticipation* at *Villa Aperta* to celebrate the album's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.