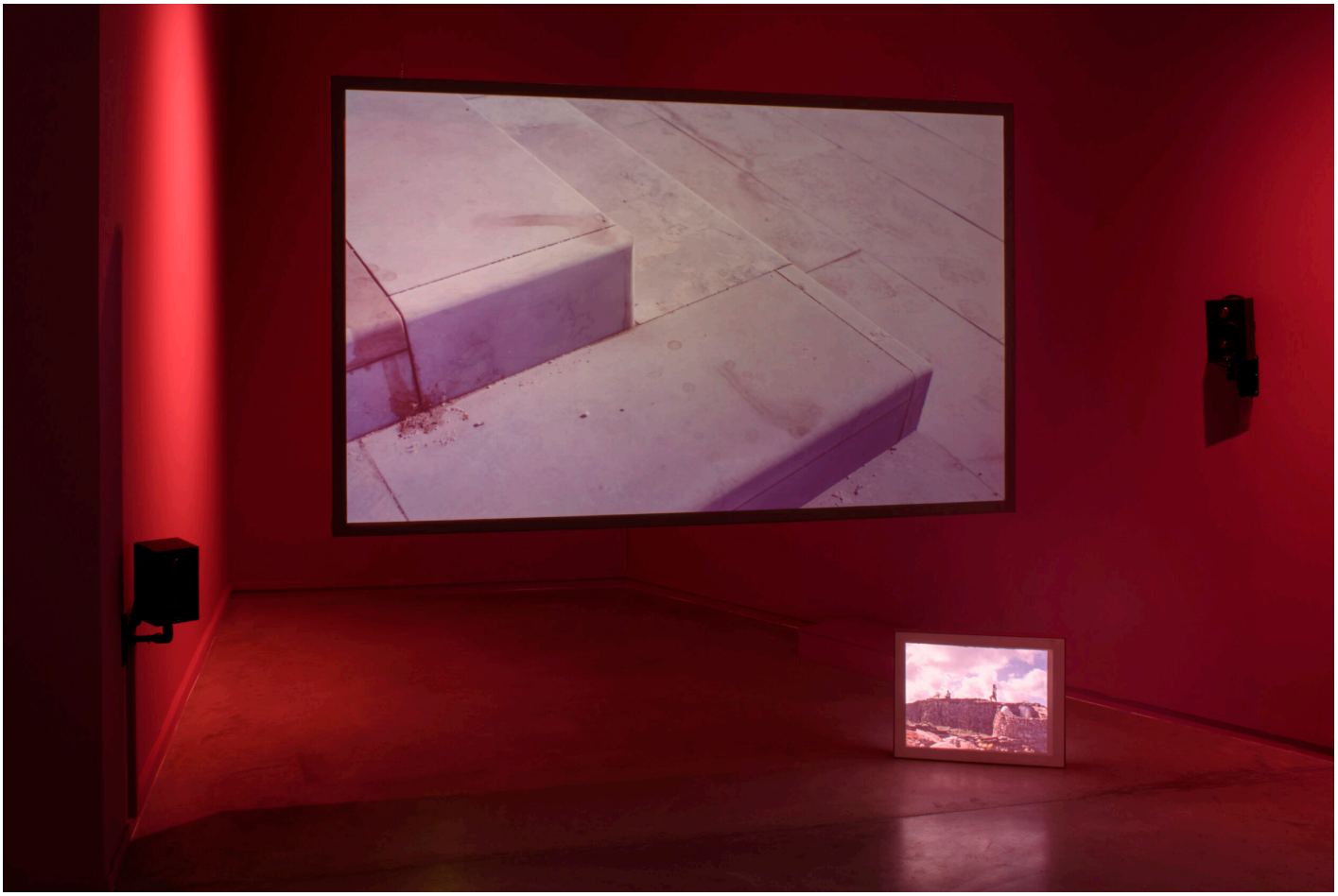
SOL ! THE REGIONAL BIENNALE #2

2023



STUDIO VIR ANDRES HERA

VIRANDRESHERA.COM

SOL ! THE REGIONAL BIENNALE #2

2023
October 14, 2023 to January 28, 2024
The Regional Biennale
MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain, Panacée

This text is an adaptation of the curatorial text by Anya Harrison.

Soleil Triste is the second edition of *SOL !*, the regional biennale initiated by MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain. Departing from the first edition's focus on decentralization and vernacular forms, this iteration takes as its point of departure a historical figure and a literary work: the Marquis de Sade and *Justine, or The Misfortunes of Virtue*.

Sade's brief stay in Montpellier in 1776 functions less as an anecdote than as a narrative anchor. Written during his imprisonment and published anonymously in 1791, *Justine* continues to shape modern thought around power, morality, desire, and transgression. *Soleil Triste* mobilizes this legacy as a framework rather than a tribute, using it to interrogate the entanglement of body and language in contemporary practices.

Bringing together works by more than twenty artists across drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, and video, the exhibition foregrounds the body as a site of tension: fragmented, exposed, excessive, resistant, sometimes desirable, sometimes repellent. Language operates alongside it, attempting to give form to what remains unstable, obscene, or unresolved.

Within this context, Vir Andres Hera presented a previously unseen version of the video installation *Le Daftar*, conceived specifically for *Soleil Triste*. The scenography draws on references to so-called "colonial" architectures in Latin America, creating a resonance between the exhibition space and the architectural logics present in the images themselves.

This presentation marked the first time that all six chapters of *Le Daftar* were shown together. Previous exhibitions, *Les Langues de la Pythie* and *Seized by the Spirit*, each presented only half of the work. At MO.CO., the full structure of the project became perceptible, allowing narrative, temporal, and spatial relationships between chapters to unfold in their entirety.

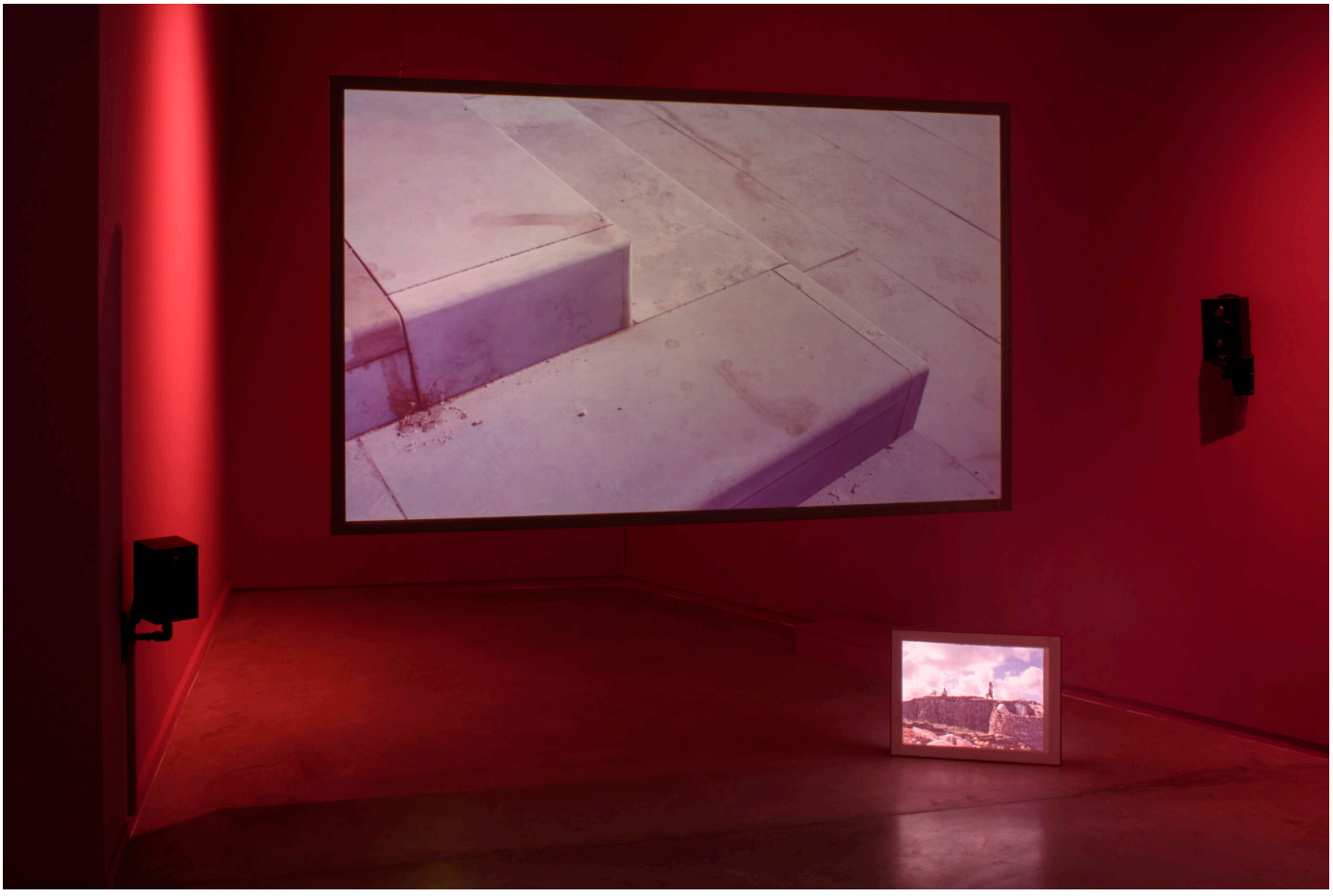
The installation also introduced new curatorial and installative explorations through variations in scale and display. Screens are miniaturized or enlarged, images are projected frontally or retro-projected, producing shifts in intimacy, distance, and attention. Rather than functioning as a fixed cinematic object, *Le Daftar* operates here as a spatial constellation.



VIR ANDRES HERA, LE DAFTAR, FIVE-SCREEN VERSION. INSTALLATION VIEW, SOLEIL TRISTE, SOL ! LA BIENNALE DU TERRITOIRE 2, MO.CO. MONTPELLIER, 2023. PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULINE ROSEN-CROS.









VIR ANDRES HERA, LE DAFTAR, FIVE-SCREEN VERSION. INSTALLATION VIEW, SOLEIL TRISTE, SOL ! LA BIENNALE DU TERRITOIRE 2, MO.CO. MONTPELLIER, 2023. PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULINE ROSEN-CROS.



THE ARTISTS AND THE CURATOR, ANYA HARRISON, ATTEND SOLEIL TRISTE, SOL ! LA BIENNALE DU TERRITOIRE 2, MO.CO.

MONTPELLIER, 2023. PHOTO COURTESY OF PAULINE ROSEN-CROS.

WITH

Soufiane Ababri, Joy Charpentier, Enna Chaton, Robert Combas, Johan Creten, Sophie Crumb, Robert Crumb, Aline Kominsky-Crumb, Sylvain Fraysse, Vir Andres Hera, Renaud Jerez, Sofia Lautrec, Paul Maheke, Lou Masduraud, Marion Mounic, Jean-Michel Othoniel, Blaise Parmentier, Dominique Renson, Nesrine Salem, Samuel Spone, Chloé Viton.

CURATOR

Anya Harrison, under the artistic direction of Numa Hambursin, Director of MO.CO.

HEAD OF EXHIBITIONS

Vincent Honoré

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION

Pierre Bellemin

MONTAGE

Nicolas Aguirre, Luc Castanié, Pierre- Guilhem Coste, Christophe Dansard, Éric Dupin, Reno Leplat-Torti, Thomas Pellet

SPONSORS

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