

(ARTISTS) AGAINST EGO

To be an artist is to consider that the world as it is is not enough. It is to consider that we do have a say. It is also to consider our point of view as a starting point to look at the world, to take a stand. We think that all of these considerations start from a conception of a « me » as a being knowing oneself is thinking; a being full of ego.

Philosophy has been interested in the ego ever since Descartes; Descartes first considered the ego as a thought-provoking subject. Then, Sartre distinguished the me from the ego: « The ego is not the owner of consciousness, it is the object of consciousness. ». In many religions and beliefs the ego is considered as a confinement: believing that we know who we are.

Each artist has his or her own practice. Everyone tries to make a living out of his art, everyone tries to find a way to exist as an artist. For this purpose, everything is allowed: we want to exist, we want to say, we want to live.

We believe that the art world forces the artist to sell himself as an incredible, surprising, inevitable person. If he wants to exist, the artist must assert his ego.

We do know we have ego. That's probably one of the reasons we are artists. But what to do ? Can we for one exhibition, use our ego for something other than personal success ? Can we, for one exhibition, set aside the injunction to succeed and propose another model of success ?

Palette Terre 2018