

Jean-Baptiste Grangier

To Build a World ... (still needing to preserve ours)

exhibition until January 26, 2019

until from Wednesday to Saturday, from 14h to 19h

curator Perrine Lacroix

in partnership with the program **Création en cours / Ateliers Médicis ***
and **La Martinière Diderot ****

thanks to the students of the **BTS Fashion Design option mode**

Marie Firrinceli, Damien Marion, Céline Tornier, Suzanne Tournenc, Julie Mercier,
Karim Allain, Léa Usandisaga, Thimoté Bureau, Clémentine Portier, Viktoriya Zorina
and **Simon Meoni, Léa et Denis Marchal, Alexis Leroy**

Why seek any "elsewhere" where to live when we are already inhabitants of here? Beyond a utopian form, it is indeed the poetic question of a story from the present, that of humanity and its hopes to go beyond the horizon, to the distant worlds still there to discover. Jean-Baptiste Grangier offers a reflection on our status as earthlings through a forgotten story: James W. Cadle and his "Flag of Earth".

On July 21, 1969, the "American" Man sets foot on the moon and plants his flag. At the same time, James W. Cadle, a farmer from Illinois, sees in this achievement the first milestone of a utopia of space conquest; he dreams of a future where this act would no longer be the affair of nations but that of a humanity united under the same aegis, the same flag. He invents the "Flag of Earth", his proposal for an official flag of the planet Earth. During his life, he would fight in vain for global recognition of his creation. He attained its unofficial recognition from the SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) scientific community who chose his flag as an emblem until its final "official" raising on June 19, 2004, the date of Cadle's death.

To Build a World ... (still needing to preserve ours) brings together various recent productions of Jean-Baptiste Grangier that present the solar system and the conquest of space as a playground.

Shown in the space are works including **The Pursuit of the Planets ***, made with children as part of his residency at The Ateliers Médicis, the film **Its anthem is the wind in her trees and the wave of her seas**, a filmed performance produced by La BF15 on June 5, 2018 (World Environment Day) at the Metz Pompidou Center, and a brand new variation of the famous flag, **Cadle's variations **** composed of seven variations of the famous flag and the set of sculptures **A concrete world**.

The Krypton video was made from the sequence shot of a glacier collapse retrieved from the internet, cropped and reassembled by the artist. This tribute to Caspar David Friedrich's *The Sea of Ice (Eismeer)*, imbued with the aesthetic of "spatial imagery", combines the vision of the climate disaster with the sublime one offered by the conquest of unknown worlds.

On the *Mappa Selenographica* (1834-1836) - German astronomers Johann Heinrich Von Mädler and Wilhelm Beer - which testifies to the growing craze for space conquest, Jean-Baptiste Grangier imagines the lines of a human development planning on the Moon: **Terra Nullius Établissement**.

The exhibition is like a given instant in which the works testify to this tension between utopian belief and the reality of an ecological discourse. It echoes the motto that Cadle gave to his flag and his dream: "Its hymn is the wind in his trees and the waves of his seas."



11, quai de la Pêcheurie
69001 Lyon
33 (0)4 78 28 66 63
infos@labf15.org
www.labf15.org

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Jean-Baptiste Grangier, born in 1993, lives and works in Paris
jeanbaptistegrangier.earth

Perrine Lacroix Direction and programmation
Florence Meyssonier Coordination