

ATOPOS CVC
at

Fondation Cartier
pour l'art contemporain
Paris

NOMADIC NIGHTS

ATOPIC BODIES [THREE]:
THE LEIOTRICHOUS TRIBE

ATOPOS CVC + CHARLIE LE MINDU

ATOPOS Contemporary Visual Culture

EXHIBITION

Oct. 12, 2010 › March 13, 2011



Fondation *Cartier*
pour l'art contemporain

PRESS RELEASE

N O M A D I C N I G H T S

ATOPIC BODIES [THREE]: THE LEIOTRICHOUS TRIBE

ATOPOS cvc + CHARLIE LE MINDU

Fondation *Cartier* pour l'art contemporain

Paris, January 27, 2011, 8:30pm-10:30pm

The Cultural Organization **ATOPOS Contemporary Visual Culture (cvc)**, having accepted 'Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain's' invitation, presents the project **ATOPIC BODIES [THREE]: THE LEIOTRICHOUS TRIBE**, as part of the **Nomadic Nights** program in conjunction to the **MCEBIUS-TRANSE-FORME** exhibition in Paris, on January 27 at 8:30pm.

ATOPIC BODIES [THREE]: THE LEIOTRICHOUS TRIBE is an **ATOPOS cvc** performance in collaboration with the French designer and haute coiffeur **Charlie Le Mindu**, specially conceived for the 'Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain'.

In **ATOPIC BODIES [THREE]: THE LEIOTRICHOUS TRIBE** (Lei`ot`ri`chous (~küs) a. 1. (Anthropol.) Having smooth, or nearly smooth, hair), 15 members of the tribe are invited to visit and interpret the **MCEBIUS-TRANSE-FORME** exhibition through their own unique and radical manner. Impressive and fantastical wigs by **Charlie Le Mindu**, extraordinary and colorful costumes by **Vava Dudu**, paper dresses by **Travis Hutchinson** from the **ATOPOS cvc collection**, as well as creations by **Issey Miyake** (supplied specially for this event), experimental music and sounds by **La Chatte**, all contribute to the creation of a strange and attractive world.

ATOPIC BODIES is a long term project by **ATOPOS cvc**, exploring the uncanny, eccentric and unclassified character of the human body in contemporary visual culture. Through collaborations between designers and artists from different backgrounds, new and radical Characters are being created by mixing visual and fashion codes. **ATOPIC BODIES** treats the body as an eternal atopus and appearance as a sociocultural construction. The Anthropologist **Ted Polhemus** notes that "we are our bodies and yet our bodies' abstract constructions of our culture are always and inevitably atopus to ourselves". He argues that there is "no such thing as natural beauty; what is deemed to be attractive and desirable in one culture or era may be deemed hideous and repulsive in another".

Charlie Le Mindu's creations are constantly shifting between the natural and the artificial. His wigs and accessories are sculptures made out of hair that can be worn to create a completely new personality or character. He always uses the highest quality natural, human hair (supplied by Hairdreams). Le Mindu's creatures reference nature and also imaginary and mythical worlds; they are familiar and strange, attractive and scary, beautiful in their monstrous bodies.

Charlie Le Mindu is a French-born hairstylist and headpiece designer based in London. After studying at the French Hair Academy, he went on to establish himself as 'Resident Hairdresser' at Berlin nightclubs after performing a series of 'Live Cuts'. Le Mindu now operates a salon from his East London home, and his regular clientele include **Lady Gaga**, **Carri Mundane**, **Peaches** and **Jodie Harsh**. A regular contributor to **Dazed and Confused**, **i-D**, **Vogue Italy**, **Vogue Hommes Japan**, **Super Super**, etc., Le Mindu has shown his collections as part of **London Fashion Week**, **Victoria & Albert Museum**, **ART-ATHINA 2010** in his first collaboration with **ATOPOS cvc** and at **Nick Knight's SHOWstudio**. He has recently designed Rapunzel's castle in **Disneyland, Paris**.

Charlie Le Mindu is one of the participating artists in **ATOPOS cvc** forthcoming publication entitled '**NOT A TOY; Radical Character Design in Fashion and Costume**' that will be launched at May 2011 by **Pictoplasma Publishing**, Berlin.

The first collaboration between **ATOPOS cvc** and **Charlie Le Mindu** was in May 2010 with **ATOPIC BODIES [ONE]** and the creation of **Mr & Mrs. Myth**, characters specially conceived for **ART-ATHINA 2010** fair. Those characters were the main theme of a short film produced in collaboration with **Vassilis Karidis** and **Nicholas Georgiou** that participated in **Diane Pernet's Film Festival ASVOFF 3**, in September 2010. **ATOPOS cvc** has also supported **Charlie Le Mindu's** work at **ON|OFF** during the **London Fashion Week 2010**.

The **Nomadic Nights** is a concept established since 1994, and is a nocturnal rendezvous devoted to the performing arts. The originality of this concept lies in the fact that these evenings take place in the '**Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain**' exhibition space itself: envisaged as a veritable testing ground, they invite artists to create links between the visual arts and other contemporary forms of creative expression. Over 500 projects have been programmed as part of the **Nomadic Nights**, some of which occurred off-site, particularly as part of the contemporary art festival **Le Printemps de Septembre** in Toulouse. The reputation of these evenings has traveled far and wide and the idea has taken root and is flourishing in other cultural institutions, both in France and abroad.

CREDITS

Concept and Artistic Direction of **ATOPIC BODIES**: **Vassilis Zidianakis & Stamos Fafalios**

Collaborate Artist for **ATOPIC BODIES [THREE]**: **Charlie Le Mindu**

ATOPIC BODIES [THREE]: THE LEIOTRICHOUS TRIBE organised by: **ATOPOS cvc, Athens & Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris**

Responsible for the **Nomadic Nights** Program, **Fondation Cartier**: **Isabelle Gaudefroy**

Coordination of **ATOPIC BODIES [THREE]**: **ATOPOS cvc Team – Aristoula Karra, Dimitra Kollerou, Leonidas Pouloupoulos and Angelos Tsourapas**

Assistants of the **Nomadic Nights** Program: **Camille Chenet and Daphne Panacakis**

Hair Creations & Styling: **Charlie Le Mindu**

Assistants to **Charlie Le Mindu**: **Richie Kuncyusz and Amber Rose**

Live Music: **La Chatte and Vava Dudu**

Music selection: **Giuseppe Gallo**

Costumes: **Vava Dudu, Issey Miyake by Dai Fujiwara and Travis Hutchinson** from the **ATOPOS cvc** collection

Make-up: **ITM School Paris**

Photographer: **Joanna Theodorakoy**

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The performance **ATOPIC BODIES [THREE]: THE LEIOTRICHOUS TRIBE** will take place on Thursday, January 27, 2011, from 8:30pm until 10:30pm.
FONDATION CARTIER POUR L'ART CONTEMPORAIN // 261 BOULEVARD RASPAIL // 75014 PARIS // +33 (0) 142 185 489

www.atopos.gr // www.fondation.cartier.com // www.charlielemindu.com



Charlie Le Mindu, SS 2011 Collection, DETOX-RETOX-BOTOX, On | Off, London. © Photo Saga Sig



contact information

Tel: +30 210 88 38 151

Fax: +30 210 88 38 302

e-mail: press@atopos.gr

www.atopos.gr

72, Salaminos str.
104 35, Athens