

# le Crédac —

*Press Release*

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## Liz Magor

### — *The Blue One Comes in Black*

»—> **Opening Thursday 8 September 2016 from 5 to 9 PM** — Solo show from 9 September to 18 December 2016 <—<<

Liz Magor, *All the Names II*, 2014



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#### Centre d'art contemporain d'Ivry - le Crédac

La Manufacture des Œillets  
25-29 rue Raspail, F-94200 Ivry-sur-Seine  
informations : + 33 (0) 1 49 60 25 06  
contact@credac.fr  
[www.credac.fr](http://www.credac.fr)

Open every day (except Mondays) from 2 to 6 PM,  
weekends from 2 to 7 PM : free admission  
Le Crédac is closed on public holidays:  
1<sup>st</sup> and 11 November 2016

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#### Press contact

**Léna Patier** / Head of communication  
+33 (0)1 72 04 64 47 [lpatier.credac@ivry94.fr](mailto:lpatier.credac@ivry94.fr)



Centre  
culturel canadien  
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# Liz Magor — *The Blue One Comes in Black*

Opening Thursday 8 September 2016  
from 5 to 9 PM — Solo show from  
9 September to 18 December 2016 —

Associate curators: Claire Le Restif et  
Nigel Prince, Director of Contemporary  
Art Gallery, Vancouver.

Liz Magor (born in 1948; lives and works in Vancouver) is a major artist on the contemporary Canadian art scene. She represented Canada at the 1984 Venice Biennale and is the subject of a 2016 retrospective that is currently running at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Montreal.

Magor draws her ideas from beliefs, reactions, and human behavior, especially when they have something to do with the material world. She is interested in the social and emotional lives of ordinary, even domestic objects, being especially fond of materials that have lost the luster of their former use or function. Selecting them for their capacity to contain and reflect stories, like personal and collective identities, Magor reveals a resonance that goes beyond their mere utilitarian function through transformations and shifts.

Her works, she says, are designed, created and polished through a play of contradictions and seem to restore the antagonisms that both torment and partake of the vitality of existence. Magor tips us off, as it were, by working from hyperrealist casts of daily objects and articles of clothing, and stitching back up and conserving objects chosen for their manifest obsolescence. Through this awakening of an anonymous material world, we can read a certain history of our modern culture, from property to the need to protect and accumulate, as well as the ambiguity and inconsistency of the desire that connects us with objects.

The series of photographs called *Karl's Castle* (2003) depicts a tourist site on Cortes Island (north of Vancouver), where the artist has a vacation home. The interior depicted in the photographs was constructed by a Hungarian wrestling champion, mainly with recycled furniture, which lends a strange medieval atmosphere. Despite the vulnerable aspect of living alone, the artist shows that it is possible to live differently by searching for greater material autonomy and an escape that possesses a utopian character. The photographs highlight the creativity of these constructions made from recycled debris, underscoring the instinct that drives us to truly occupy our living space in order to feel protected there.

There is another series devoted to covers, which drape down from hangers like great swaths of color. Folded and ironed, they still bear the protective plastic bags from when they were last at the dry cleaner's. Magor carefully selected them in second-hand shops, had them cleaned and then darned them with thread or polymerized gypsum as if to emphasize the preciousness of their threadbare condition and the intensity of the connection that links them still to their owners (cigarette burns, snags in the fabric, wear and tear...). The outdated labels they sport continue to proclaim the quality of their wool or their mothproofing. Their use seems to be closely bound up with Canadian national identity, either because they conjure up the length and rigor of winters in North America, or because the motifs they display recall the history of the Hudson's Bay Company, one of the oldest companies, specialized in business and the fur trade since the 17th century.

The artwork itself is an unstable material that is liable to change and often filled with or steeped in things that have already had an erratic past.

*All the Names II, III* (2014) is one of the artist's many pieces in which forms are encapsulated in silicon envelopes. This series of translucent, slightly iridescent cases protect a content that is thus placed beyond our reach and rendered imperceptible. The cases were molded from cardboard boxes that were wrapped in brown paper and ready to send; their interiors, left empty, were filled with various selected objects and then hermetically resealed. One contains small packages wrapped in gift paper and ribbons as well as an additional quantity of paper; the other, books and papers probably found, perhaps left behind, abandoned. These kinds of things interest the artist since they indeed reflect a certain historical period yet are incomplete, outmoded and don't attain the status of heritage items or even curiosities.

For *The Blue One Comes in Black*, Magor has brought together a recent group of sculptures and photographs, which allow the visitor to measure the formal extent of her approach, looking to stress the memory of what is human for an exhibition located in a former factory.

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This exhibition is a partnership between Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (Canada) and Peep-Hole, Milano (Italy).

It has been supported by the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris ; Canada Council for the Arts - International Touring Program, The Province of British Columbia - Touring Initiative and BC Arts Council Touring Initiative Program.

Liz Magor is represented by galleries Susan Hobbs, Toronto, Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver and Marcelle Alix, Paris.

>>> A selection of images is available upon request to Léna Patier /  
lpatier.credac@ivry94.fr / +33 (0)1 72 04 64 47

A solo show of Liz Magor will be held simultaneously at Marcelle Alix gallery from 9 September to 29 October 2016 – 4 rue Jouye-Rouve, Paris 20.  
>>-> marcellealix.com

## Book

**Liz Magor, *The Blue One Comes in Black***  
Texts: Céline Kopp, Liz Magor, Lisa Robertson et Jan Verwoert / Graphic design: Mathias Schweiger  
22,5 x 31 cm ; 170 p. + booklet ; English / French  
28 €

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## Biography

Liz Magor is born in 1948 in Winnipeg (Canada), she lives and works in Vancouver.

Among many others, recent solo exhibitions include: *Habitude* (retrospective) at Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (2016) ; *You be Frank, and I'll be Earnest* (duo with Alisa Barenboym) at Glasgow Sculpture Studios (2016) ; *Surrender*, Iskowitz Award, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto (2015), *Six Ways to Sunday #06*, Peep-Hole, Milano (2015) ; *Liz Magor: A Thousand Quarrels*, Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver (2014) ; *No Fear, No Shame, No Confusion*, Triangle France, Marseille (2013) ; *I is being This*, Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver (2012). She has represented Canada at Venice Biennale (1984) and has participated in major exhibitions worldwide including *documenta 8*, Kassel (1987) and Sydney Biennale (1982)

Liz Magor is the recipient of the Gershon Iskowitz Prize (2014) and the Audain Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2009).

She has been teaching in various art schools and universities in Canada: University of British Columbia, Ontario College of Art and Design, and Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design.

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## Crédakino

Devoted to film and video,  
**Crédakino is a screening space in Crédac.**  
It is hosting film and video programs developed  
by artists and curators

- From 8 September to 16 October -

**Olivier Dollinger,**  
*The climate control and the summer of love,*  
2016

Thursday 6 October at 7pm :  
Screening and meeting with Olivier Dollinger

- From 18 October to 20 November -

**Carte blanche to Elfi Turpin**  
Director of CRAC Alsace, Altkirch (FR)

Thursday 17 November at 7pm :  
Screening and meeting with **Elfi Turpin**

- From 22 November to 18 December -  
**Estefanía Peñafiel Loaiza, *remontages*,  
2014-2016**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7pm :  
Screening and meeting  
with **Estefanía Peñafiel Loaiza**

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**Screening schedules and more informations:**  
upcoming at [www.credac.fr](http://www.credac.fr)

## Upcoming exhibitions

**Lola González / Corentin Canesson**

**Two solo shows**

From 20 January to 2 April 2017

Opening Thursday 19 January 2017 from 5 to 9 pm

**Nina Canell**

**Solo show**

From 21 April to 25 June 2017

Opening Thursday 20 April 2017 from 5 to 9 pm