



## The Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts Glyptothèque

Preview of the exhibition on March 4th at 7 p.m.  
The Exhibition will remain open until March 27th 2015

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The Exhibition is supported by The City of Zagreb

## In A Rhythmic Fashion by Carla Arocha and Stéphane Schraenen

For their first exhibition in Zagreb, the Antwerp-based artist duo Carla Arocha and Stéphane Schraenen have devised P10, the tenth iteration of their P-series: modular veils or curtains made of identical Plexiglas elements, hooked together with s-brackets, that both divide, distort and reveal (possible) spaces. Their work, always devised according to site-specific considerations, shows how a regular exhibition location can be made to suggest limitless space that shimmers with depth and reflection.

The veil repeats one basic increment: a double-sided mirrored, upright rectangle, out of which a smaller rectangle has been laser-cut, off-centre, towards the lower right. Disposed in an angular configuration that shears a path amongst the space's distinctive industrial columns - from above, the shape resembles Lambda, the eleventh letter of the Greek alphabet and a symbol for a type of subatomic particle in physics - the veil inserts additional vanishing points to confound the viewer's perception of space.

The optical disorientation created by the mirroring segments reflecting off each other, the space and also the viewers, is augmented here by 16 paintings hung on the surrounding walls: chosen at random, these colours mix and recombine in various combinations as they are caught and reflected by the P10 veil, like a hyperactive dream catcher weaving an image of kinetic abstraction. As viewers move through the space, their movements will allow them to encounter ever-new combinations, of the walls, the curved ceilings, the colours lime, violet, ochre, light green, beige, mustard, marine blue, purple and aqua canvases... thereby placing them into the position of real-time sampler, mixer and original creator.

The canvases, which are hung horizontally and vertically in a random fashion, are also augmented with abstractions of themselves: shadows of the paintings own shapes have been painted onto the canvases in a paler shade. This reveals artistic intentions that are self-aware of the contemporary condition of abstraction, positing both pure colour and quotation, as they echo modernism in a contemporary setting. While the exhibition's title and diagonals call to mind Mondrian's *Victory Boogie Woogie* and the achievements of DeStijl, *In A Rhythmic Fashion* offers both an immersive installation and a fluid, open-ended comment on the history of abstraction.

*The Antwerp-based duo Carla Arocha (Caracas) and Stéphane Schraenen (Antwerp) have been collaborating since 2004. Their sculptures, 2D works and installations recalibrate optical and cultural phenomena: they pare them down to their essence and redirect them in materially rich objects that are reminiscent of modernist design and abstract and minimalist art of the Twentieth century. Some works include references to film noir and popular culture, thereby investing abstraction with a narrative perspective. Their modular veils, such as P10, fragment spaces and invite viewers to engage in an optical choreography that is activated by their own presence. Carla Arocha and Stéphane Schraenen have exhibited widely throughout Europe, the United States and Mexico. 2014 saw the realization of *Persiana*, a 10-year survey at CCMechelen in Belgium.*