

ENGLISH

GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS DUBAI

87 rue du Temple, 75003 Paris, France. Tuesday - Saturday 11am-7pm and by appointment  
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# MBL ARCHITECTES

## SANS DISTINCTION

GALLERIA CONTINUA | Paris - From June 23, 2023

GALLERIA CONTINUA / Paris is delighted to present Sans distinction (Without Distinction), an exhibition dedicated to the methods deployed by MBL architectes as part of the major renovation work carried out to breathe new life into GALLERIA CONTINUA's unique spaces in France (GALLERIA CONTINUA / Les Moulins and GALLERIA CONTINUA / Paris). The exhibition showcases seven documentary pieces that recreate the places and their histories, and highlight a way of making architecture, through the approach proposed by MBL Architectes. Because dismantling, adding, removing and maintaining are all acts of architecture, the phrase Without Distinction is an affirmation of equal consideration for all that remains. This method combines situations, with all the elements present, to give equal attention to all things, "without distinction".

Since 2010, MBL architectes have been assisting GALLERIA CONTINUA to develop and refurbish the 17,000 sq. m. of its Les Moulins space. As a preamble to any intervention, the renovation protocol is a work of investigation and observation for understanding the evolution and characteristics of this collection of industrial architecture and its wasteland landscape. To update them, MBL Architectes implemented a range of targeted interventions of varying scales: a roof, a wall, a door handle, a skatepark, etc., all designed to welcome visitors, artists and works of art.

In 2021, while in full Covid lockdown,

Lorenzo Fiaschi, co-founder of GALLERIA CONTINUA, launched the challenge of renovating a former 800-sq. m.-leather goods import-export shop in the heart of the Marais district, without ever closing the place. This injunction to keep the site open to the public set the pace for the design of the Continua project. More than drawings, it was a question of deploying a way

of doing things. Deviating from the aesthetic of the accomplished white cube, the project uses white fragments at the heart of the preserved architecture: here a ceiling, there a partition, here a beam, etc. The reassembled old shelves became a range of home furnishings. Traces of a hitherto hidden past remain - flowery wallpaper, cracked walls, sagging floors - cohabiting with all the things to come.

The seven pieces in the exhibition illustrate seven ways of doing things:

- *Record*: Fragments of scanned walls at the Moulin de Boissy
- *Consider*: Detail of scanned wallpaper at 83 rue du Temple.
- *Move*: Assemblies of selected rubble and foam.
- *Investigate*: Project for the volumetric 3D plan of the first GALLERIA CONTINUA.
- *Reuse*: Model of a range of furniture with remnants of shelving.
- *Combine*: Model of the architectural intervention at the Moulin de Boissy.
- *Sampling*: Annotated reproduction of striking motifs on rue du Temple.

The exhibition also features a 4-color Bic pen and specially-edited *As found* vases, a silk square designed for Bombyx Mama, as well as the publications Plan Libre, Impasse des Lilas, MiLL-Flora Buissiac and Concrete Cathedral.

MBL architectes is an architectural firm founded by Benjamin Lafore & Sébastien Martinez-Barat, who are joined by Florian Jomain.

From 2007 to 2013, they collaborated with David Apeceix under the name La Ville Rayée. MBL recently won the contract to renovate the former AP-HP hospital headquarters in Paris. They are editors-in-chief of the magazine Plan Libre and

curators of architectural exhibitions at Villa Noailles, Hyères. Their research and construction work culminated in the monographic exhibition Impasse des Lilas at the arc en rêve architectural centre (Bordeaux, 2022 ). MBL are winners of the Albums des Jeunes Architectes et Paysagistes awarded by the French Ministry of Culture.

MBL architectes: Benjamin Lafore, Sébastien Martinez-Barat, Florian Jomain with Véranie Jeune, Fanny Vallin, Nicolas Boulben, Gabriel Fabre, Eugénie Palau, Roxane Laborde, and Julia Tanner.

With thanks to: Alain Duke Dukatar, Soraya Chaar.