

Wednesday June 21, 2017 | by Gabi Gimson

Channeling collective unease, Baptiste Debombourg shatters glass in three European exhibitions

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Baptiste Debombourg, Contextual installation in laminated glass 33/1 from "Raging Dreams", 2017. broken windows. courtesy: artist.



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For the past decade, French artist, **Baptiste Debombourg**, has exploited the fragility of glass to explore the "evidence of humanity" out of scenes of apparent wreckage, as *GLASS Quarterly* contributing editor Victoria Josslin put it in a [Fall 2015 \(GLASS #140\)](#) profile of the artist. And Debombourg's three recent exhibitions prove just as gasp-inducing as their predecessors. "RAGING DREAMS—over the horizon" by Debombourg opened May 19 at [Gallery S12](#) in Bergen, Norway to celebrate the gallery's 10th anniversary. According to the S12 event announcement, energy and the power of dreams are guiding motifs in the installation, composed mostly of laminated broken glass. Like the artist's previous works, "RAGING DREAMS" references the destructive power of natural forces with large, immersive and engulfing installations that creep from the gallery walls to its floors with edges that resemble a breaking wave.

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Another recently unveiled installation by the artist, "Jardins fantômes" (Ghost Gardens) is a publicly commissioned structure on the wall surrounding the Bassin du Roy (Basin of the King) in Le Havre, France, a few hours train ride from Paris, where Debombourg lives. "Jardins fantômes" is made of disjointed panels of weathering steel that are placed to create an indiscernible decorative pattern along the basin's edge. The patina of the material and the gaps within the pattern make the installation appear almost as the vestiges of a forgotten mosaic.

Several artists of many disciplines were invited to contribute work in celebration of the town's 500th anniversary. Debombourg's contribution was inspired by Le Havre history and the history of the town's acknowledged founder, King Francis I, who is credited for bringing the Italian Renaissance movement to France. The pattern of "Jardins fantômes" is inspired by the floral and geometrical wall coverings that stretch floor to ceiling in the wing constructed by Francis I at the Château Royal de Blois in Blois, France. The installation is on view until August 10 at the Bassin du Roy.



The most recent of Debombourg's exhibitions, "Transient" opened last week at [Krupic Kersting Galerie](#) in Cologne, Germany. The solo show features the shattered glass effect for which the artist has come to be known. The works explore the temporal transformation of materials by invisible forces, like gravity. The installations

are monochrome black with devastating shattered surfaces, playing with visual contrast and the transient state of matter, and like, "RAGING DREAMS" the installations are made mostly of laminated broken glass.

IF YOU GO:

Transient
Through August 31, 2017
Krupic Kersting Galerie
An der Schanz La
Cologne, Germany
[Website](#)

Un Été au Havre
Through September 8, 2017
Bassin Du Roy
Le Havre, France
[Website](#)

Raging Dreams--Over the Horizon
Through July 16, 2017
Gallery S12
Sparebanksgaten, Norway
[Website](#)

UrbanGlass

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Directions



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