

# Case Study

## Camille Henrot - *Grosse Fatigue*, 2013

The chosen artwork is a video installation of approximately 13 minutes, projected in a confined space painted in blue in the La Biennale di Venezia museum, in 2013. The concept recalls the creation of the universe as seen by various cultures and religions. The video uses visuals through a continuity of images and short videos overlapping each other on a background, recreating a computer screen. In addition, a text is being read by a Akwetey Orraca-Tetteh on the pace of a sound piece created by Joakim. The visuals largely include archives of objects and findings from the Smithsonian Archives of American Art, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

*'In the visual background of this impassioned oration, Camille Henrot performs what she calls an "intuitive unfolding of knowledge" through a series of shots unveiling the treasures hidden away in the prestigious collections of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.'*

*(The Smithsonian Institution is the biggest scientific and museum complex in the world. As part of the Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship, Camille Henrot was granted permission to film the collections belonging to the following departments: the Smithsonian Archives of American Art, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum)*

The message of the work could relate to the impressive knowledge and awareness humans have managed to acquire since the creation of the world. The speed and density of visuals in the video may as well reflect the capacity of the human mind to take in and process information. It could as well be a way of showing the important amount of discoveries we have found and identified until today, although only a brief percentage is shown throughout the work. The meaning of the work runs around the diversity in the historical, scientific and religious perspectives claiming the origin and creation of the universe and essentially our planet. Therefore showing the diversity in the creative process of thinking of the human kind depending on their education and beliefs.

As mentioned previously the message is communicated mainly through the density of images. However, the text also accentuates this notion of diversity by putting words on and giving meaning to the visuals. The use of anaphora throughout the text written in collaboration with Jacob Bromberg emphasises the idea of *'In the beginning'* - the questioning the concept of the creation of the universe.

Camille Henrot is using a multi-sensorial experience to communicate her idea and concept about the universe through the use of color, sound, visuals and text. We could even consider the physical perception of the sense of touch as her touching the various objects in the videos almost makes the audience feel like they are feeling them themselves. Her communication also includes the overwhelming of the audience through the accumulation of the various elements that are taking place in the piece.

The strategies the artist uses can be described as rather chaotic, dense, intense and overloaded in information. Camille Henriot highly emphasizes this notion of juxtaposition between confusion and the more aesthetic part of the piece.

If I were to recreate the piece, A video installation isn't the media that I would use to explore the creation and origin of the universe. As I recognize that listing is a pretty effective way to represent large amounts of data, I would like to have a large white room with a list in alphabetical order on the walls representing all the organisms, plants and objects that we have had the chance to discover since the start of the human race.

Otherwise, I would want to expose in in space, for instance, similar to IKEA. Each space would recall the evolution of a species or like the lists on the wall, recreate the order of discovery of everything since the start. The 'walking path' found in IKEA spaces would allow for a throwback in time and space where the audience and viewers can experience the creation of the universe, precisely. The findings would be shown in the form of photographs, taken on a white background to blend in with the white walls of the space.