

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 24, 2017

CONTACT: LISA PEARSON publisher@sigliopress.com SIGLIO PO BOX 111 CATSKILL, NY 12414 P: 310-857-6935

PROFANITY AND BEAUTY, SUBVERSION AND HUMANITY, WIT AND IMAGINATION

VINCENT SARDON: THE STAMPOGRAPHER

With an interview with the artist. Translations by Philippe Aronson.

PUB DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2017 \$32.50 HB 7.75 x 10.5 100 pages color throughout ISBN: 978-1-938221-16-3
Advances available July 23. All Siglio titles are distributed to the trade by ARTBOOK/D.A.P. and available at www.sigliopress.com

Introducing English-speaking readers to one of the most unusual and original voices in contemporary French culture, *The Stampographer* traverses the fantastic, anarchic imagination of Parisian artist Vincent Sardon, whose dark, combative sense of humor is infused with Dadaist subversion and Pataphysical play.

Using rubber stamps he designs and manufactures himself, Sardon commandeers a medium often associated with petty and idiotic displays of bureaucratic power, then uses those stamps not to assert authority, but to refuse it. He scours the Parisian landscape as well as the world at large, skewering the power-hungry and the pretentious, reveling in the vulgar and profane.

In *The Stampographer*, there are insults in multiple languages, sadomasochistic Christmas ornaments, and a miniature Kamasutra with an auto-erotic Jesus. Sardon also wields the stamp as satirical device, deconstructing Warhol portraits into primary colors, turning ink blots into Pollock paint drips, and clarifying just what Yves Klein did with women's bodies. Yet Sardon's razor-sharp wit is tinged with the irony of his exquisite sense of beauty. The stamps are rarely static—they have an animating magic, whether boxers are punching faces out of place or dragonflies seemingly hover over the page.

Sardon's work is provocative in its subject matter as well as in its process and dissemination: he not only stands defiantly outside the art world's modes of commerce but his artworks (the rubber stamps themselves) are actually the means with which anyone can make a work of their own.

The stamp is never neutral. It packs a symbolic wallop because of the millions of judges, cops, customs officials — agents of public authority — who use them to validate passports, to turn people away at the border, to pass judgment, to pass laws, to sentence, to record proceedings, to excommunicate — all sorts of evil documents that have the power of putting people in impossible situations. Any absurdity presented in this manner becomes ten times more powerful thanks to the magic wand of graphics. It is this mysterious power that fascinates me and that I continue to explore.

—Vincent Sardon

VINCENT SARDON is a radically independent artist in Paris who makes and sells his work in a little shop and studio near the Père Lachaise cemetery in the eleventh arrondissement. He began his career as political cartoonist for the left-wing *Libération* then, disillusioned, he set out on his own to make rubber stamps, of which he's now made thousands. He has an ardent cult following in France following the illustrious comic book press L'Association publication of *Le Stampographe*, a four-year journal narrating his artistic life and work, which is now in its third printing.

END

siglio is an independent press dedicated to publishing uncommon books that live at the intersection of art and literature. Siglio books are cross-disciplinary, uncategorizable works, authored by renowned as well as little known artists and writers who obey no boundaries, pay no fealty to trends and invite readers to see the world anew by reading word and image in provocative, unfamiliar ways.