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**PROFANITY AND BEAUTY, SUBVERSION AND HUMANITY, WIT AND IMAGINATION**

# VINCENT SARDON: THE STAMPOGRAPHER

PUB DATE: **NOVEMBER 21, 2017** \$32.50 HB 7.75 x 10.5 100 pages color throughout ISBN: 978-1-938221-16-3

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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. It includes the first interview with the artist in English.

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.

**Vincent Sardon:** *"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** 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 Tampographe*, a four-year journal narrating his artistic life and work, which is now in its third printing.

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS WITH VINCENT SARDON IN NYC

Book launch and reception with book signing and rubber stamp demonstration!

Monday, September 25, 7 - 9 p.m. | **SPOONBILL STUDIOS**, 99 Montrose Avenue, Brooklyn | Free event

Sardon will create a little parallel universe to his Paris shop "Le Tampographe" with an array of rubber stamps and a large wall installation at Printer Matter's NY Art Book Fair (Room R, Table No. 5).

Thursday, September 21 - Sunday, September 24 | **MoMA PS1** | More fair info at **PRINTED MATTER**

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