

Vol d'art - Art Robbery

new musical performance program

by *Les Reines Prochaines*

Michèle Fuchs, Fränzi Madörin, Muda Mathis, Sus Zwick

Mix: Chantal Molleur

When art and artists take off or are artfully made to do so, then one knows that *Les Reines Prochaines* are at work. Once again these *heroines of the everyday norm* – 'N' – are launching an opulent, new program of musical performance.

Their joyful and passionate repertoire includes cheery, rowdy songs like the paintings of *Breughel*, which allow pain and ugliness, sin, aging and fat to appear as something beautiful. Inspired by *Hieronymus Bosch's* bizarre mythical creatures and created in the tradition of genre pictures, *Les Reines Prochaines'* new songs are both fantastic and (ironically) moralistic. For example, one song uses the *roundabout of an ordinary traffic circle as a metaphor for life*. Another is based in the classic scenario of a family gathering. Discussing the distribution of the heritage over dinner in the common spirit of today's global greediness, the family members already fight over the pot roast. Indeed the songs of *Les Reines Prochaines* are crowded with characters, as when an alter ego longs for its original counterpart. With the surreal elegance of *René Magritte*, *Les Reines Prochaines* consolidate reality and dream into audio plays of delicately absurd pointedness. *Monica the Good Who Loves Evil* proclaims a lifestyle of 'being cool' as in the cold-blooded passion driving *Judith Beheading Holofernes* in the radiant painting by *Artemisia Gentileschi*.

As fresh as ever, *Les Reines Prochaines* extract their material out of the everyday mess of normal madness, absurdity and rebellious capriciousness. Composing songs as miniatures and assemblages of image, speech, sound and movement the works are precise, yet subversively ambiguous.

In fact, going beyond meaning *Les Reines Prochaines* don't make any sense, but rather they are sensual; as well, *Les Reines Prochaines* don't comment about politics, they are political; and, *Les Reines Prochaines* don't make art, they are art.