

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire
Centre d'Arts et de Nature

Artistic programme for 2009
Contemporary art and photography

2 April - 31 December 2009
Press file

Opening on 2 April 2009



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Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

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The Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, the first "Centre d'Art et de Nature", welcomes twelve new artists, visual artists and photographers in 2009.

OPENING ON 2 APRIL 2009

Nils-Udo, a major artist of our time, who introduced nature to the centre of the artistic scene and François Méchain, known for his subtle plant architecture, will present, from 2 April, unusual installations in the park of the Castle of Chaumont-sur-Loire, strong poetic interrogations of the threats that hang over our natural environment. «Gulliver's forest» by Nils-Udo, a work that plays on the infinitely large and the infinitely small, as well as «L'arbre aux couteaux» and «L'arbre aux échelles» by François Méchain are metaphors for the splendour and damage to our forest. With «Pittoresque» Dimitri Xenakis and Maro Avrabou have designed a series of framed, see-through paintings for the park, which show the Castle throughout-of-scale images of flowers. Erik Samakh, with his "fireflies" which magically poetise nights at Chaumont and his work on the sounds of the Loire reproduced for the 2009 Festival, continues to communicate with the landscape like Rainer Gross and Victoria Klotz.

Following on from works by Gursky and Alex MacLean, the castle gallery will host photographs by Nils-Udo and Rodney Graham, whilst the new Stable Gallery will host images by Jacqueline Salmon in "L'aracine des légumes". The Domaine will also host, in the Donkey Farm, photographs by Jean-Louis Elzeard ("Ce printemps, le printemps encor réinventera les prés" and "Reconnaissance de la rivière") and Guillaume Viaud.

To echo the theme of the Garden Festival, which, this year, focuses on colour, in the Fenil Gallery, Daniel Walravens will present "Du vert au vert", a strict variation of approximately fifty paintings which explore all the potential colours of green, whilst Deidivon Schaewen will show the sumptuous polychromy of her "Sacred Trees" and Luzia Simons will show her "Scannogrammes" of giant tulips in the new area "the Bee Barn". The painter, Christophe Cuzin, has been asked to compose a garden for the Festival.

Finally, it should be noted that until 2011, the Castle will host, in an area of approximately 600 square metres, work by Jannis Kounellis, a key figure of Arte Povera, in a framework of an exceptional order by the Centre Region for the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire.



Artistic project

A major artist of our time, Nils-Udo has introduced nature into the centre of the artistic scene. He will show a new installation in the Park of the Castle of Chaumont-sur-Loire. This work, Gulliver's Forest, will play on the infinitely large and the infinitely small. Very small shrubs will be planted by the artist at the foot of a cedar tree in the park. Soil and plants will be added and remodelled to offer visitors an unusual walk: both of a giant among the small shrubs and of a dwarf at the foot of the cedar tree. In the form of poetic interrogation, Gulliver's Forest will challenge visitors on the splendours as well as the threats hanging over our natural environment.

In addition to his work in the Park, Nils-Udo will exhibit a series of his photographs in the Castle from 2 April – 31 August 2009.

Biography

Born in Bavaria in 1937. He studied graphic arts in Nuremberg.

He gave up painting in 1972, believing it to be an artificial way of handling nature and started to work, in his own words, at the source itself.

"Sketching with flowers. Painting with clouds. Writing with water. Tracing the May wind, the path of a falling leaf. Working for a thunderstorm. Awaiting a glacier. Directing water and light... Counting a forest and a meadow...."-Nils-Udo

He borrows his materials from nature. Anything to do with plants or minerals is an excuse to create: snow, flowers, leaves, berries, forests, water, stones and deserts. He rarely uses inanimate objects, preferring living subjects, which are constantly developing and changing. Subject to the laws of nature, the work of art itself becomes alive. The artist asserts that he thereby establishes a "spiritual and aesthetic dialogue" with nature, his only point of contact.

"With my work in and with nature, I am abolishing the border between art and life." Nils-Udo

The artist creates ephemeral works, installations that are just above water or in the centre of the desert which he immortalises by taking photographs of them. His most famous assemblages are his giant "Nests" in which he sometimes places human bodies or "eggs".

"The Neststhemesisundoubtedlythethemeforallmywork,whichhasbeenpresentinmyworkfromthestart.Aftermyfirstlargenestin1978onLüneburgHeath,manyothersfollowed,inallsizesandallsortsofmaterials:bamboonestsinJapan,wickernestsinEngland(forPeterGabriel),awinternestmadeofsnowinBavaria,a"habitat"nexttotheGrandPalaisinParisaswellasrealbirds'nestsinwhichI'veplacedeggs moulded out of ice".

Frominstallationtosculptureorphotography,NilsUdo'smainworkvaluesthisinteraction,thisinteractionwithnature,landofexperience,whenmanactinguponhisenvironmentisawareofactinguponhimself.

"My gaze may rest anywhere in the forest. Everywhere I look, I could set to work."

02 April - 31 December 2009

"Gulliver's forest"

Castle Park



François Méchain

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire



Artistic projects

Two in situ installations at the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire will show new metaphors of the splendour and damage to our forests. In the school in the stables, a charred tree trunk spiked with knives will stretch out over a bed of red clay, whilst in the Park, a number of rope ladders will be hung from the branches of a tree as an allusion to the "Baron perché" by Italo Calvino.

Biography

A sculptor and photographer, François Méchain was born in Varaize in 1948. He now lives and works in Charente.

Having studied at the Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts (Fine Arts Institute) in Bourges, he teaches photography at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Saint-Etienne. He is represented by the Michèle Chomette Gallery.

François Méchain works at the heart of nature in the line of Land Art. He produces, in situ, ephemeral sculptures by staying attentive to the history of the place, the photographic viewpoint, the interpretation and the future of the installation. Through his lens, he fixes time in his sculptures of landscapes, born from his passion for anything to do with the land that he covers, crosses and inspects during his many travels.

"My work is a core boring into the depth of the world. The problem with my work is getting the right distance. Remember that my sculptures have also been constructed for my camera's viewfinder, so that it can see them. I have always wanted to cloud the issue. People never know how to classify me: photographer, sculptor, sculptor for photography, photographer that uses his laboratory to remodel light as he would do for the earth. I like the uncertainty of this area".

Extract from the collective works of François Méchain, *l'Exercice des choses*, 2002.

François Méchain

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

02 April - 31 December 2009

Stables and Castle Park



L'Arbre aux
Couteaux



L'Arbre aux Echelles

Dimitri Xenakis and Maro Avrabou

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire



02 April - 31 December 2009

«Pittoresque»

Castle Park

Artistic project

Entitled "Pittoresque", the work created for the park by Dimitri Xenakis and Maro Avrabou relies on the very definition of this word which appeared in Italy in 1708: "Pittoresco" derived from "Pittore", the "Painter". A series of framed paintings will show the Castle throughout-of-scale pictures of flowers. This installation, unusual at first glance, is mainly a tribute to the site and to the loving relations maintained by painting, the park and nature.



Biography

Born in Athens in 1960, Maro Avrabou is a plastic artist and light designer. She works in the visual arts field and in theatre, dance and opera.

Born in Levallois-Perret in 1964, the plastic artist Dimitri Xenakis works in and with the landscape, constantly renewing his artistic language to communicate with the environment.

Both are working on jointly-signed works that question areas of life, points of view, shapes and light. They are working on all projects to do with the natural and urban landscape, endeavouring to create a link between what exists and artistic intervention.



02 April - 16 October 2009
« De vert au vert »
Fenil Gallery

DE VERT EN VERT
March 1986 – December 2008

“The fact that the colour green is produced by mixing yellow and blue does not mean that green is a yellowish or blueish colour.”
- Ludwig Wittgenstein

Artistic project

To echo the theme of the International Garden Festival, the Domaine's annualevent this year focuses on colour. Daniel Walravens will display a strict variation of 50 paintings which explore all potential colours of green, the colour of plants. To continue the work started in 1986, it will take place in an area marked by its history and former purposes.

“The Fenil Gallery is an area marked by its history and former purposes¹. This first type of intervention, in this place, should not be the occupation of a container but an occupation which revives the place².”

“De vert en vert” is structured around three proposals that interact with one another according to various strata:

“De vert en vert” (extract)³ includes fifty 62x62 cm paintings which surround the three main walls. The vibratory aspect of the painted surfaces creates indiscernible areas where the body of the painting is revealed, enabling the change from feeling to perceiving⁴.

This sequential choice offers a wide panorama of green colours which echo and contribute to any overlaps with the green colours in the park and the surrounding gardens.

Daniel Walravens

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

"Vert—Grandes surfaces"⁵ consists of several self-adhesive labels in various greens which include the names of colours and/or numbers appended here and there, on stalls and on the base of the green concrete.

"Vert—Liste" is a non-exhaustive list of a variety of five hundred names of green found on colour charts for artists and others specialised manual workers. On the table setup, on the angular base which might be covered in var, a print run of all these green colours is fixed underneath the glass.

On the date of the preview, visitors will move toward this "semantic table" at their leisure. There they will be offered drinks in different shades of red in complement to others in different shades of green, such as: Bourgueil, Chinon and Touraine wines; red grape and tomato juice; raspberry, blackcurrant, blackberry and blueberry cordial served in clear glasses, where they will proceed at their leisure "De vert en vert" - Daniel Walravens.

1. Previously the cowshed—in almost its original state—included in the model farm constructed at the start of the 20th century by the princely de Broglie couple, the owners of the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire.

2. "It is not the bridge which takes the place to stand on it from the beginning; rather, the place comes into being only by virtue of the bridge." Martin Heidegger, "Bâtir habiter penser", Essays and conferences, Paris, Gallimard, 1958, p. 183.

3. The colours of which have come from the colour chart "Totem Tollens Color System", Bright colours (456 shades), Daniel Walravens colour creation, Tollens, Saint-Ouen l'Aumône, 1981.

"Defining colour consists of carrying out the work of a grammarian, poet, philosopher and even historian, novelist and politician in a single stroke". Denys Zacharopoulos, in Daniel Walravens, "L'univers l'autre", Du vert en general", Domaine, 1994, Bignan, Domaine de Kerguéhennec, 1995, p. 227.

4. "You look to see what you would not see if you did not look"; Ludwig Wittgenstein, Remarques sur les couleurs, Mauvezin, T.E.R., 1983, p. 69.

5. Comes from Grandes Surfaces (1989) and other self-adhesive labels relating thereto (3.7x11 cm, 3x6.5 cm, 2x4 cm). They introduce an uncertain path, a change in scale in the face of "De vert en vert (extrait)". See Daniel Walravens, "De la couleur", Parcours, 3 lieux, "De la production à la collection"; "De la peinture en général et de la couleur en particulier, Brussels, La Lettre volée, 2006, p. 134.

6. Hard copy, medium green (144 x 592 cm).

Biography

Born in 1944, Daniel Walravens, an industrial designer, placed colour at the centre of his artistic research. He is the author of numerous monumental monochromes and colour charts.





Artistic project

Luzia Simons will also offer a trip into colour through a series of large scannograms of de-pixelated and re-pixelated tulips. This involves scanning the flowers themselves as opposed to scanning reproductions of tulips.

The designs are divided, ultra-precise in detail and blown up beyond the imagination. The camera is in the image of a human eye. Its construction obeys the natural laws of optics with its physical mechanisms: convex lens, focused rays of light, remote accommodation of the object. It is fitted with an individual viewpoint equipped with a light sensitive receiving surface which creates a virtual image of reality. Any missing depth is compensated by the 3-dimensional theorem.

Unlike cameras, scanners do not have a viewpoint. The old viewing window, once stable, is set in motion and transformed for seeing. A scanner does not have a lens or focus and it does not recognise viewpoints or vanishing lines. Similarly to a blind person, it apprehends reality by trial and error, storing the image pixels alongside each other with great precision and consistency. Anything in the foreground is clear and sharp, whilst the depth of focus dissolves into fuzzy darkness. It is as if the scanner were the appropriate technique for globalisation which is fully on the move.

Luzia Simons does not scan tulips by coincidence. The tulip and its bulb, once as precious as gold, originating from Iran and Turkey, not Holland, where they still symbolise today the life of a lively individual, are of particular artistic interest to Luzia Simons. Cultural confusion and the loss of identity as well as, in return, enrichment through exchange, are subjects which the artist has been dealing with for a long time, in works such as "Transit", "Face Migration" and "Luftwurzeln" (aerial roots).

The baroque reference to beauty and the transience of things is primarily ironic. However, these tulips are resolutely staged and become actors in a great chromatic play. Yet, no individuals are involved. The artificialness of the scanned surface, the perfectly flat image of micrographic precision, reflects the border between image and reality like sensitive skin.

Luzia Simons

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

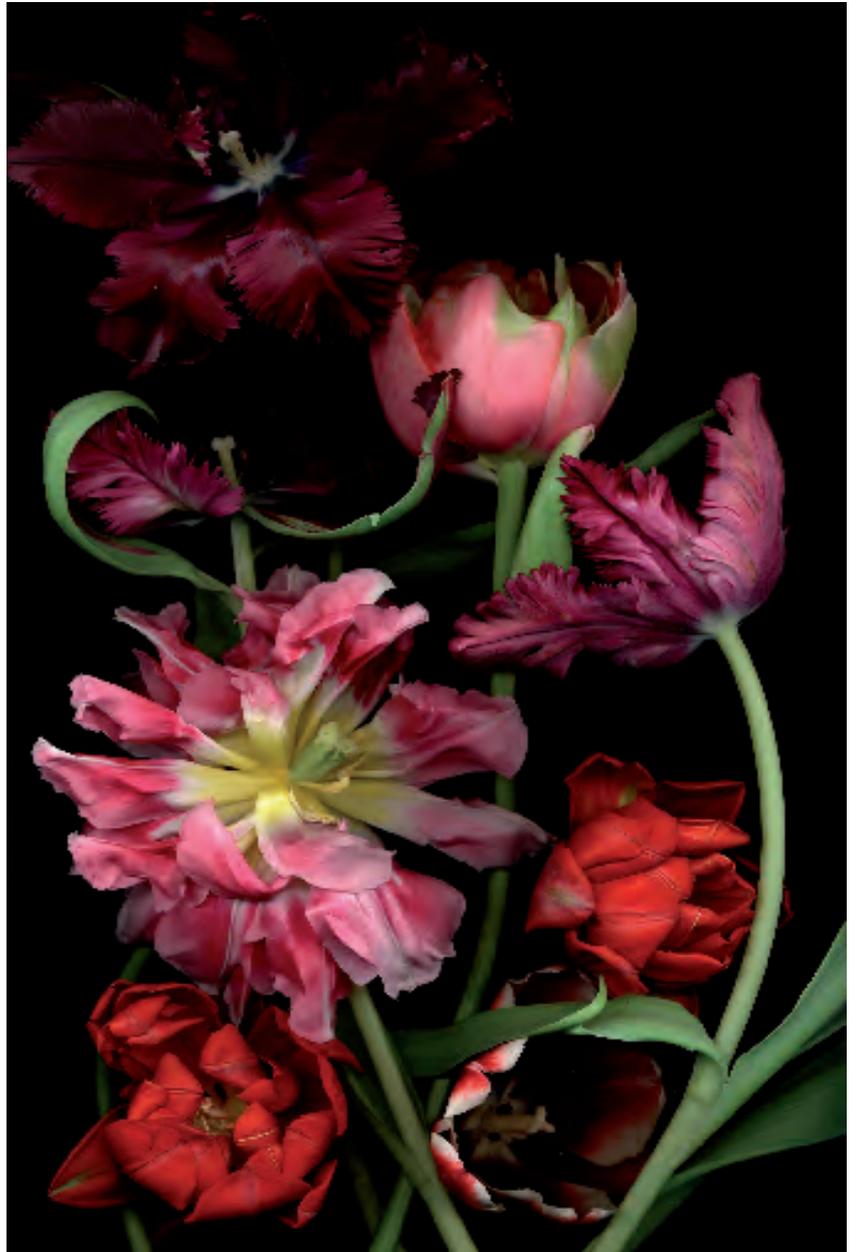
02 April - 16 October 2009

Bee Barn

As if this were not enough, Luzia Simons places her murals, which she supplies to the spectator in the form of fragments, "Stockages", free then to construct a composition for an installation.

Biography

Born in 1953 in Quixadá, Ceará (Brazil), Luzia Simons lives and works in Berlin and Stuttgart (Germany). Represented by Gallery Nara Roesler, São Paulo and Gallery Andrieu, Berlin, she regularly exhibits in Germany, France and Brazil. Her works are shown in numerous collections including: Graphische Sammlung der Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart; Kupferstich-Kabinett der Staatl. Kunstsammlungen, Dresden; Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Paris; Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain de Basse-Normandie, Caen; Graphotek der Stadtbücherei, Stuttgart; Artotek Felbach, Germany; Artothèque de Caen; Casa das Americas, Havana, Cuba; Fotosammlung Joaquim Paiva, Brasília, Brazil; Pirelli Fotosammlung, Museu de Arte de São Paulo, Brazil... Citizen of the world, she is the author of "Transit", a work in which she questions the notions of identity, migration and multiplicity of being. "You cannot but think that in Transit, Luzia Simons has given concrete expression to her transportable museum on Ellis Island, her box in her case". The 32 pages of the artist's passport have grown, been mixed up, torn, stuck back down, put together again, "falsified" within the meaning of the law, clouding things but at the same time offering pieces of what she is, or what she was at various times of her life.



Deidi von Schaewen

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

02 April - 16 October 2009
«Arbres sacrés»
Castle Park and Bee Barn



Artistic projects

Deidi von Schaewen has been invited to Chaumont-sur-Loire to exhibit a series of large photographs dedicated to the sacred trees of India. They will be exhibited on the very bark of the trees on the Park.

In the Bee Barn, one of the artist's films will also be shown on two translucent screens, a short film, which extols colour, on the slow and fascinating movement of plant material, gliding over the face of a Jain divinity during a traditional Indian religious ceremony.

Deidi von Schaewen

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Biography

Born in Berlin, Deidi von Schaewen now lives and works in Paris (les Filles du Calvaire Gallery).

After studying painting at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Berlin, she went on to choose photography.

Since the 1990s, Deidi von Schaewen has been publishing her photographs of French gardens, eccentric residences and Indian interiors.

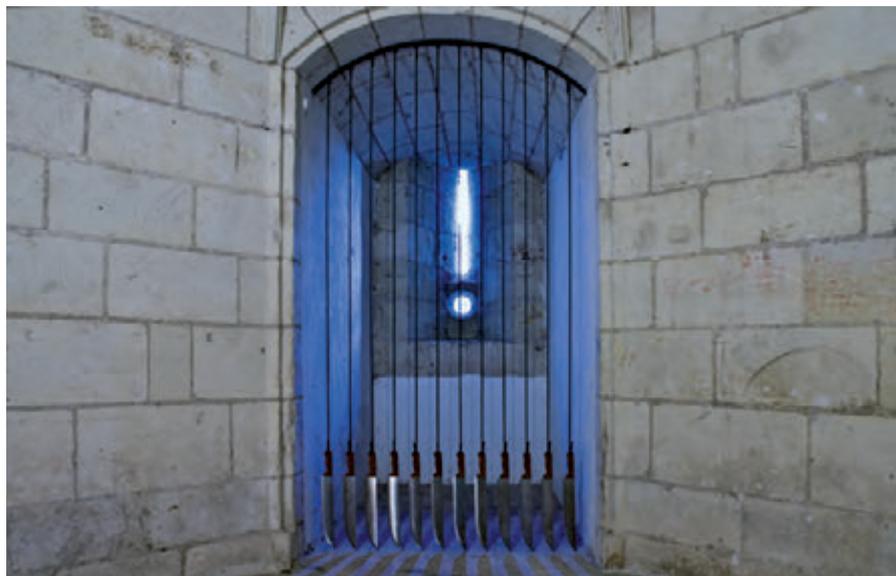
During her travels to Tashkent to produce the work "Inside Africa" in 2001, her fascination for precarious housing arose, shacks made from flattened barrels, assembled in colourful patchworks of paint, graffiti and rust, as well as for unused cars in Cairo wrapped in plain or coloured fabric, awaiting fuel or repair.



Centre d'Arts et de Nature
de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Jannis Kounellis

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire



Centre Region's order for
Jannis Kounellis
1st July 2008 - 2011
Castle of Chaumont-sur-Loire

Artistic project

Jannis Kounellis has met an exceptional artistic order placed by the Centre Region for the castle of Chaumont-sur-Loire, which will remain at Chaumont for 3 years. This large-scale public order is invested in almost 600 square metres, 9 rooms of the castle, which until now, had been closed to visitors, and on 3 different floors: in the old vaulted kitchens in the basement, in an old apartment on the first floor in the south wing and in the Tour d'Amboise. None of these areas have been restored at the artist's request: Jannis Kounellis wanted them in that condition. A maze of beams supporting the old walls, a forest of bells, stones roped together and knives suspended in space create a strange yet fascinating world. 137 bronze bells have been suspended from 137 beams made from poplar wood, erected from floor to ceiling. Hidden under dark sheets or piled on top of one another, although these bells don't ring, they are capable of waking the entire castle. Jannis Kounellis offers Chaumont-sur-Loire a monumental piece of work with great suggestive power.

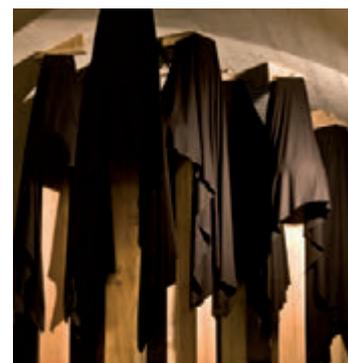
Biography

Born in Piraeus, Greece in 1936 and living in Rome since the 1950s, Jannis Kounellis is considered to be a key figure in contemporary art and one of the leading representatives of Arte Povera, alongside Mario Merz, Giovanni Anselmo, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Luciano Fabro and Giuseppe Penone. An artistic approach which considered itself revolutionary, the aim of Arte Povera was to challenge the cultural industry and consumer society, and to go back to the essence of creative action, in particular by using materials referred to as "poor" throughout the creation process. Jannis Kounellis is associated with the Lelong Gallery.



Jannis Kounellis

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire



Discovered in the 1970s, Jannis Kounellis has built up an immense collection of works which, by linking space and time, the installation, the story and the archetypes of a mythological project and memory, link painting and sculpture, architecture and music, theatre, dance and opera. He is one of the rare few European artists to have changed art and its perception in the 1960s and who continues to invent great work today.

Jannis Kounellis was originally a painter. From a painting tradition (Caravaggio, Munch, De Chirico, the cubists, etc.) rather than sculptural, he started his artistic career in the 1950s by painting letters, arrows and numbers on original media such as wood or newspaper. In 1967, he started to produce sculptures, installations and theatrical performances, which fall within the fragmentary and the ephemeral. He has produced several sets for opera. These days, if Jannis Kounellis mainly uses raw materials, of industrial or organic origin (coal, fire, wool, stone, wood, coffee, etc.) to compose his monumental installations, he nevertheless considers himself to still be a painter, whose work takes shape within the area of the painting.

"It's not the subjects that I leave, it's the space. Since we left the painting, it's the space itself which has become the picture, which has become the subject [...]. From the moment we left the painting, everything has become the painting. For that reason, I consider myself to be a painter".

Jannis Kounellis on his installation at the Château de Plieux, Gers, 1995.

Jannis Kounellis' installations are always nurtured from their spatial, architectural and historical context as well as from the tensions that bring the place where they are situated to life.

Often nurtured by the sacred and mysterious, his works present opposing forces such as duration and the ephemeral, hard and soft, living and dead, industrial and organic, and show his interpretation of the relationship between nature and culture. By creating a poetic and malleable language which combines both the abstruse and the sensitive, Jannis Kounellis seeks to convey the dialectics between "structure" and "sensitivity".



Artistic projects

Since 1st July 2008, Erik Samakh has been showing a lighting installation consisting of "lighting" in the Castle Park. "Solar flutes" suspended from the large trees in the park emit intriguing sounds as early as sunrise via the energy captured, whilst "fireflies" are recharged in the sunlight and emit a parking intermittent light at nightfall. By playing with the viewer's perceptions, Erik Samakh reveals the secret beauty and noises of nature whilst completely respecting the environment.

In 2009, Erik Samakh is offering a new sound installation based on the sounds of the Loire, the mysteries of which will have been recorded and apprehended.



Biography

Born in 1959 in Saint-Georges-de-Didonne, Erik Samakh, a true pioneer, started to use computers and electronics in the 1980s to create installations which are sensitive to their surroundings and to public attitude. Influenced by artists such as John Cage, Joseph Beuys, Marcel Duchamp, Walter de Maria and Bill Viola, Erik Samakh explores the subtle interaction between the natural environment and elements that are foreign to it – technological devices, viewers, in order to transcend the beauty of nature and change its perception.

By combining unobtrusive technological systems and natural phenomena originating from plants or animals, Erik Samakh, from an acoustic ecological perspective as well as a strictly artistic approach, invites viewers to be attentive to nature and to start listening and communicating with it.

As a teacher at the Art School in Aix-en-Provence, Erik Samakh has taken part in art biennials (e.g. the one in Venice) and has exhibited in numerous international museums (including the Georges Pompidou Centre). His artistic approach is also shown in natural areas (Parc naturel régional in Lorraine, Gorges de Riou in Hautes-Alpes, Réserve géologique in Haute-Provence, Forest of Tijuca in Brazil and the Centre national d'art et du paysage of Vassivière in Limousin). He has also designed numerous historical heritage installations: Abbaye de Maubuisson, Château de Chambord and Moulin de la Recense in Bouches-du-Rhône.

Rainer Gross, "Toi(t) en perspective et Toi(t) à terre"
Since 1st July 2008
Castle Park

Artistic project

Since 1st July 2008, Rainer Gross has been offering two sculptures in darkened wood, one vertical and the other horizontal, both inspired by the shape of the castle roofs at Chaumont-sur-Loire. One, suspended from the hundred-year-old trees in the park, shows the reverse image of the donjon. The other lies under a cedar tree. Visible from the Loire, the latter sculpture also offers a view of the river through one of its apertures. The works are rooted in the landscape and use materials that are derived from the landscape. Rainer Gross formulates the precariousness of man in the face of his natural surroundings, a paradox of being independent from and, at the same time, a product of nature.



"The construction of machine-made slats refers to its material origin, and, at the same time, the darkness of its burned surface refers to the next inevitable phase in a non-going cycle: birth, growth, appropriation for use by man, destruction and disintegration".

"What I like about working outdoors is marking the precariousness of human life in relation to his environment. My works are not built to last, so I choose a modest, fragile material especially which can be adapted but will not last".

Biography

Born in Berlin in 1953 and settled in Belgium, Rainer Gross started his artistic work as a stone sculptor before devoting himself to wood from the middle of the 1990s.

By presenting living, changing and ephemeral processes, Rainer Gross produces fluid-shaped installations, which are sometimes graphic and sometimes organic. If his earliest works were mainly designed to be in situ installations which followed shapes in their environment, his recent creations are more object installations which are detached from their surroundings but echo them at the same time.

His constructions, light and impressive, aerial and rooted, appear as spaces within space. Like worlds that have both closed in on themselves and opened up to a new reality, they invite viewers into a new perception of their environment, space, scales and volume.

Artistic project

Victoria Klotz wanted to bring back to life the capricious spirit of the princess de Broglie who lived at Chaumont from 1875 until the end of the 1930s, and who was particularly attached to her animals: dogs, monkeys and even an elephant. In the dog cemetery at the Castle of Chaumont-sur-Loire, the artist has created an additional tomb from all sorts of pieces, the tomb of the elephant which was offered to the princess de Broglie by the maharajah of Kapurthala. A photograph of Miss Pundgi, the dead elephant, appears on the stele, which has been cleverly included in the historical cemetery. An aged wood funeral chapel also welcomes visitors to the entrance of the small wood in the dog cemetery. There they may discover the acoustic film. The fleeting hunt, presenting a four-second revolution within Orion's nebula where a hunting dog roves. Finally, an acoustic installation emits the sound of a pack of dogs near the cemetery.



Biography

Born in 1969, Victoria Klotz currently lives in the Central Pyrenees.

She has been working in visual arts since 1997, based on her personal experience of the "great outdoors". Using predatory strategies such as lying in wait, approach, entrapment and camouflage, she produces works conceived for the spectator/listener: ambulatory, observant, sound and literary based installations. Her work is also shown in the form of in situ installations, suggestions of events, video, audio tape, photography and writing.

Victoria Klotz questions the field of desire by taking a position on wild and animalistic grounds. The ecological dimension leans towards fiction, resulting in landscapes observing us, animals shying away and enticing us elsewhere.

Her first personal exhibition, *In Media Res*, took place at the BBB Gallery in Toulouse in 1997. In 1999, she received help setting up the Midi-Pyrénées DRAC (Regional Cultural Affairs Division). She has had several residencies and, in particular, was welcomed by the AFAA (French Association for Artistic Action) in Oslo, Norway in 2001. She exhibited at the F15 Gallery in Moss, Norway the same year.

In 2002, she displayed "Hospitalités" at the BBB Gallery following another six-month residency at Joseph Ducuing Hospital in Toulouse. In 2006, the CNAP (National Centre for Plastic Arts) awarded her a grant. She also collaborates on numerous collective exhibitions, the last of which, *Show Off*, took place in Paris in 2007 with the BBB Gallery.

LeDomainedeChaumont-sur-Loire: Photography



Centre d'Arts et de Nature
de Chaumont-sur-Loire

02 April - 31 August 2009
Castle Gallery



The Castle Galleries will host 25 photographs by Nils-Udo.

By establishing "a spiritual and aesthetic dialogue" with nature, Nils-Udo keeps track of his ephemeral installations and living sculptures through photography. A subtle thaumaturge, playing with the elements, leaves and flowers, reflections and shadows, he shows a rethought concept of nature, which has been gently reconstructed in the asserted aim of achieving "what is possible and latent in nature" and "to literally make real what has never existed but has always been present, utopia becomes reality".

Rodney Graham

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

05 September - 31 December 2009

Castle Gallery



Artistic project

After having produced a joint exhibition with Harun Farocki at the Musée du Jeu de Paume in spring 2009, Rodney Graham will display a series of photographs of upside-down trees, as if suspended on the landscape, at the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, in connection with his interrogation of the means of perceiving art. A universal symbol and image, here the tree represents the idea of nature and a need for ecological awareness. The inverted image is also the first photographic image and recalls the principle of the darkroom or the camera obscura

Since the middle of the 1970s, Rodney Graham has been re-examining certain bases of western culture.

His work is intelligently paradoxical, based on a strange mixture of severity and melancholy, humour and erudition, coherence and eclecticism.

Repetition, citation and "mise en abyme" (placement into infinity) are strategies which he uses formally, psychologically and philosophically. Such strategies of appropriation and alteration help to develop a work which is profoundly original and personal.

Biography

Born in 1949 in Abbotsford (Canada), Rodney Graham studied history of art at the University of British Columbia and at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, the city where he now lives and works. Mainly known for his design work, he is also a writer, a composer and a sculptor.

Since the beginning of the 1980s, he has been exhibiting in North America and Europe. He took part in the Documenta IX in Kassel in 1992 and in the Venice Biennial the following year where he represented Canada.

In 1999, a large exhibition was dedicated to him at the Vienna Kunsthalle.

Mainly known for his conceptual films and performances, Rodney Graham has produced rigorously intellectual work which tackles all registers of artistic creation, up to music and even writing.

In another area, the "Cedar Tree" series consists of photographs of upside-down tree trunks, in shades of sepia.

The view of an upside-down world, these photographs respond to evidence that the world is not how we imagine; before our brain rectifies the image formed on our retina by rotating it 180°, the image is printed upside down like in a 'camera obscura'.

Rodney Graham's works (films, videos, photographs, models, books and scores) question the means of perceiving art. Using a rigorous design method, they analyse the formal, narrative structures of various media in order to better undermine the foundations.

Jean-Louis Elzéard

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

05 March - 30 April 2009

«Ce printemps, le printemps encore réinventera les prés»

Donkey farm



Artistic projects

Jean-Louis Elzéard will present two successive exhibitions at the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire. The first celebrates the splendour of meadows and flowers in fields in the spring, which he magically frames and re-frames in his lens.

The second, "Reconnaissance de la rivière" (Recognition of the River), a photographic panorama in 7 sections, exalts a landscape of stones and water.

Jean-Louis Elzéard

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

06 May - 31 August 2009

« Reconnaissance de la rivière »

Donkey farm



Biography

Born in 1950, Jean-Louis Elzéard lives and works in Valence.

He has been displaying his works in personal and collective exhibitions in France and abroad (Belgium, Germany, Italy) since 1976. He extends his thoughts on photography by writing catalogue texts. He has also produced many works around the work and person of the following artists: Thomas Kovachévich, Giuseppe Penone, Toni Grand, Gaetano Pesce, Etienne Martin, Tunga and Pierre David.

Jacqueline Salmon

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire



02 April - 16 October 2009
« Les racines des légumes »
New Stables Gallery

Artistic project

Likedyingnature, Jacqueline Salmon's photographsexaltthe unsuspected beauty of rare and everyday vegetables, with grace that is sometimes surprisingly worthy of old frescoes.

The title of this exhibition is inspired by the collection of thoughts "Propos sur la racine des légumes" (A Topic on the Roots of Vegetables) by Hong Zicheng, a philosopher from the Ming dynasty. The series "La racine des légumes" (The Root of Vegetables), produced between 1998 and 2000, is signed by Jacqueline Salmon and Robert F. Hammerstiel.

"I asked Robert to be my assistant in this work which had to be done in the 4x5 inch Chamber, and which I couldn't produce alone, and he agreed. Very quickly, we needed two to think, two to make decisions, undeniably what we did together didn't exactly resemble what I would have done on my own and I decided to sign with him. The vegetables are grown by Gilles Béréziat on the "Ferme des Bioux" in Buellas near Bourg-en-Bresse. His vegetables flabbergasted me one day at a market in Ain, when I had started work in the royal vegetable garden in Versailles, where they were disappointing. But, by geographically moving my subject, I lost this funding! And neither the book nor the exhibition has ever existed. The work lasted more than two years as we lacked cash and formed a friendship with the market gardener and his family. We sometimes decided on any missing varieties together. He let us know when the leeks, cabbages and aubergines were ripe. We then had to go to Buellas, cross the fields, choose the vegetables, dig them up and transport them to an improvised studio under the barn away from direct sunlight which would have wilted them within a few minutes. Robert wanted artificial lighting to avoid the colours of daylight, blue in the morning, orange in the evening. But the plant would instantly have looked unwell with the heat from the lights. We had to decide not to control the colour of the concrete floor which we used as a background. Robert built scaffolding from potato boxes which he climbed onto, and the chamber was then suspended above the carefully swept ground, on which I placed the plant. We then had to add volume using a set of small pins, balls, cubes and twigs, clean the roots using a paintbrush and dry the ground, so that the rootlets didn't stick together and no water droplets marked the ground". - Jacqueline Salmon

Jacqueline Salmon

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Biography

Jacqueline Salmon was born in Lyon in 1943 and now lives in Paris. She studied interior design at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Appliqués (National School of Applied Arts), taught dance, produced some theatre sets and various historical exhibitions. For some years, she has devoted her life to music, botany, reading and writing a journal: "Passé composé" and "Futur antérieur"; two volumes which were developed at the same time in memory of and in the imagination of the future, from moments experienced in the present. A riding accident turned her life upside down in 1973. She then discovered photography and in 1981 decided to devote her time solely to this. The relations maintained by History, Architecture and Art in general with philosophy will be at the centre of her concerns. In 1981 her meeting with the plastic artist Aline Ribière led to a long series of work in collaboration. In 1984, the "Mission du patrimoine photographique" (Photographic Heritage Commission) placed an order for the Le Corbusier convent, which was to be exhibited at the Palais de Tokyo Museum for the architect's centenary in 1988. In 1987, together with Jean Jacques Romagnoli, she founded the association "Photographie d'Auteur" within which she was responsible for the publishing and commissioning of exhibitions. Numerous invitations to conferences in Eastern Europe enabled her to meet Robert F. Hammerstiel, a young photographer. In 1993, she was awarded the "Villa Médicis Hors les murs" prize with her project "Entre centre et absence". She has also carried out remarkable work at the Sangatte Centre.



Guillaume Viaud

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

02 September - 31 December 2009
Donkey Farm

Artistic project

The Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire will show the photographs of Guillaume Viaud as well as his invention of an amazing rucksack covered in mirrors, which reflects the environment of the person wearing it. Guillaume Viaud has used this device in various situations, playing with the effects that it produces on the landscape and on the gardens which it unusually refracts.

Biography

Born in 1983, Guillaume Viaud graduated from the Ecole Régionale des Beaux-Arts in Rennes. He has taken part in numerous collective exhibitions, including "Allées et venues" at the Jardin des Plantes in Sotteville-les-Rouen in 2005, Glenfiddich Art Centre in Scotland in 2006 and "PariPhoto" at the Maubrie Gallery in Paris in 2008.

In 2008, he was also given a residency at Giverny for the Terra Summer Residency Program. He will take part in the "Flower Power" group exhibition in Turin, Italy from 23 May to 11 October 2009.

Guillaume Viaud is associated with the Gabrielle Maubrie Gallery.



Le Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Arts and Nature at Chaumont-sur-Loire

Since 2008, the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire has been owned by the Centre Region, which has created a new public institution for cultural cooperation intended to implement an ambitious artistic project. The Centre Region is one of the first regional bodies to have applied for the purchase of a national Estate which is particularly prestigious, due to its past and its exceptional location by the Loire River, a landscape which is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage.

The aim of this public institution is, on the one hand, to protect and promote all the property assets and furniture on the Domaine, including the castle, the stables, the outbuildings, the park and the collections, and on the other hand, to develop a set of activities centred around contemporary creation, in the castle and in the park, including the International Garden Festival, created in 1992.

From the sumptuous decor prescribed by Diane de Poitiers to the extravagances of the Princess de Broglie, from the medallions of Ninio to the recital of Francis Poulenc, from Nostradamus to Germaine de Staël and the Park of Henri Duchêne to the Garden Festival, Chaumont-sur-Loire has always proved to be at the forefront of creation, elegance and fantasy. Out of sheer respect for its rich artistic history, the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire will implement a lively, varied programme of events that will last throughout the year, focusing on the link between art and nature in the castle, the park and obviously within the context of the Garden Festival. As all the activities (installations, artistic intervention, photography exhibitions, symposiums, conferences, etc.) are linked to this theme, the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire appears to be the first Arts and Nature Centre to be entirely devoted to the relationship between nature and culture, artistic creation and innovative landscaping.

A Cultural Meeting Centre since October 2008, like the Abbey of Royaumont and the Chartreuse de Villeneuve-lez-Avignon, the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire is now part of a European network of prestigious institutions, recognised by the Ministry of Culture and Communication, all of which have the task of safeguarding heritage, an innovative artistic project at the root of their cultural development.

Cultural programme for 2009

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

29 April 2009 opening of the Garden Festival « Gardens in colour »

02 April - 02 May 2009

Jean-Louis ELZEARD photography exhibition – Donkey Farm

02 April - 16 October 2009

Daniel WALRAVENS "De vert en vert" exhibition – Fenil gallery

Deidi VON SCHAEWEN "Arbres sacrés" photography exhibition – Bee Barn

Luzia SIMONS photography exhibition – Bee Barn

Jacqueline SALMON "Les racines des légumes" photography exhibition – New Stables Gallery

02 April - 31 August 2009

NILS UDO photography exhibition – Castle Gallery

02 avril au 31 décembre 2009

Installation of the design by NILS UDO - Castle Park

Installation of designs by François MECHAIN - Castle Park and Stables

Installation of the work of Dimitri XENAKIS and Maro AVRABOU - Castle Park

06 May - 31 August 2009

Jean-Louis ELZEARD photography exhibition – Donkey Farm

26 to 28 June 2009

Chaumont-sur-Loire welcomes the Festival Excentrique (Eccentric Festival)

July 2009

15, 22 and 29 – "Jardins d'images" cinema festival: Open-air cinema festival

03, 10, 17, 24 and 31 – "Nuits magiques": "Lucioles" by Eric Samakh and lighting of the castle using candles

August 2009

05 and 12 – "Jardins d'images" cinema festival: Open-air cinema festival

07, 14, 21 et 28 – "Nuits magiques": "Lucioles" by Eric Samakh and lighting of the castle using candles

05 September - 31 December 2009

Rodney GRAHAM exhibition – Castle Gallery

September 2009

Symposiums and conferences

October / November 2009

Symposiums and conferences

31 October and 1st November – "Les Mystères de Chaumont", unusual tours of the castle by night

December 2009

06 and 20 – "Les Merveilles de l'Avent"

International Garden Festival

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire



2009 **DOMAINE DE CHAUMONT-SUR-LOIRE**
FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DES JARDINS
Jardins de couleur

Du 29 avril au 18 octobre
www.domaine-chaumont.fr
Tél. 02 54 20 99 22



Photo: Festival, Dominique Deshayes / Centre - Festival

Gardens in colour

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Theme for the 2009 Festival: «Gardens in colour»

Colour, bright or subtle, is a key element in the garden, whether it is tackled from a philosophical, symbolic or scientific point of view.

Like in painting, man has tried to understand and master colouring gardens. He has tried to create harmony, contrast and balance, by tirelessly combining the beams radiated.

In 2009, the International Garden Festival shows that the range of plants used by artists and landscape gardeners offers an infinite diversity of colours and colour combinations, the virtues and energy of which have an undeniable effect on the mind and the senses.

A stimulating counterpoint to the dullness of lives and cities, using secret colour codes, the 2009 Festival will offer poetic gardens, all slightly different, playing upon thousands of hidden meanings, whether these are monochromatic, subtle shades or gardens with clear colours. You will also see that plant dyes are at the origin of many colours and pigments used by man in general, particularly artists.

Bright reds, deep blues, white or black, the gardens at Chaumont will amaze you with their unusual and bold offerings.

Michel Pastoureau, medievalist, historian and undisputed specialist on colour, an author of international repute of numerous works on the subject will preside over the panel of judges for the 2009 Festival. Approximately twenty gardens have been selected by the judges out of almost 300 proposals from all over the world.

If the gardens of 2009 will radiate colour, they will also provide us with light. A brand new feature for 2009, the Festival's gardens may be visited at night through the use of light emitting diodes.

Garden of images

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire



Open to French and international film directors, whose cinematic creations are inspired by the show of nature or gardens, "Jardin d'Images" is the open-air cinema festival of the Chaumont-sur-Loire Arts and Nature Centre.

"Jardin d'Images" Open-air Cinema Festival
15, 22 & 29 July – 5, & 12 August 2009.

The Castle of Chaumont-sur-Loire

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

© Alex MacLean



Restored, refurbished, smartened up and decorated, the Castle of Chaumont-sur-Loire, with its exceptional view of the Loire, awaits your visit. Following significant interior restoration work, the Castle has regained its tapestries, old furniture and particular atmosphere, resounding of celebrations, from the era of Princess de Broglie, with her dream of the rich past of the Domaine and its exceptional characters: Catherine de Médicis and her astrologers, Ruggieri, Gaucic and Nostradamus, as well as Diane de Poitiers, Germaine de Staël, etc.

New in April of 2009, the park will welcome you with white and green early spring blossom around the castle.

The Castle of Chaumont-sur-Loire

DomainedeChaumont-sur-Loire



© S. Franzese



The people involved within the Domaine

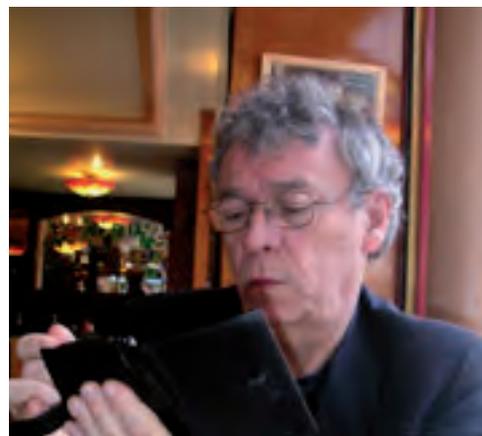
Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

François Barré is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire.

In 1969, together with François Mathey, he founded the "Centre de création industrielle" (Centre for Industrial Design) within the "Union centrale des arts décoratifs" (Central Union of Decorative Arts). From 1981, he defined the programme and started the "Concours International du Parc de la Villette" of which he was the director and chairman of the "Grande Halle". Appointed as Ministerial Delegate for visual arts for the Ministry of Culture in 1990, he became chairman of the Pompidou Centre in 1993 and went on to manage the Directorate for Architecture which soon became the Directorate for Architecture and Heritage at the Ministry of Culture. After leaving the Ministry in 2000, he devoted himself to artistic management of public commissions associated with the tramways of Mulhouse and Nice and in an advisory role on architectural and urban projects for the towns of Boulogne-Billancourt, Nancy and Saint-Étienne.

François Barré is also chairman of "Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie d'Arles et d'Arc-en-rêve", at the architectural centre in Bordeaux and chairman of the FRAC Ile de France.

François Barré



Chantal Colleu-Dumond



A professor of Classics, Chantal Colleu-Dumond has spent a large part of her career working abroad. The Director of the French Cultural Centre in Essen, Germany from 1982 to 1984, cultural attaché in Bonn from 1984 to 1988, cultural and scientific adviser in Bucharest, Romania from 1988 to 1991, she was also in charge of the Department of International and European Affairs at the Ministry of Culture from 1991 to 1995, before accepting the position of Cultural Adviser in Rome from 1995 to 1999.

Passionate about heritage and gardens, she created the collection "Capitales oubliées" (Forgotten Capitals) and was the director of the Cultural Centre at the Abbaye Royale de Fontevraud, developing a project on the image of heritage and designing several projects around gardens. Cultural advisor for the French Embassy in Berlin and director of the French Institute in Berlin from 2003 to 2007, in September 2007, Chantal Colleu-Dumond accepted the position of director of the new public institution for cultural co-operation (EPCC) for the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire which now includes the International Gardening Academy, the Festival and the Castle.

Reconciling her administrative and artistic responsibilities, she is at the origin of numerous events, multidisciplinary festivals and contemporary art exhibitions, both in France and abroad.

Chairman of the Board of Directors : François Barré

Director of the Estate : Chantal Colleu-Dumond

Board of directors

Chairman : François Barré

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Vice-Chairwoman of the Centre's Regional Council

Agnès Thibault

Regional Adviser to the Centre

Bernard Valette

Vice-Chairman of the Centre's Regional Council, responsible for International Affairs

Guy Vasseur

Member of the Standing Committee of the Centre's Regional Council

Commune of Chaumont-sur-Loire

Jean-Pierre Lefebvre

Mayor of Chaumont-sur-Loire

Qualified individuals

Chilpéric de Boiscuillé

Headmaster of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Nature et du Paysage de Blois

Yves Dauge

Senator, Chairman of the Association des Centres Culturels de rencontre

Claude Jeangirard

Former Chairman of the Conservatoire International des Parcs et Jardins et du Paysage

Jean-Pierre Le Dantec

Historian and writer, headmaster of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette until 2006

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Indre Deputy

Former minister

Richard Edwards

Designer of cultural projects

Editor, teacher

Colette Garaud

General Inspector of Artistic Creation

Dominique Masson

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Guy Tortosa

General Inspector of Artistic Creation

Press visuals

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire



Photos
© Alex MacLean

Aerial view of the Domaine



Aerial view of the Castle



The Loire

Centre d'Arts et de Nature
de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Press visuals

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire



Photos: Gilles Mayer Le Scanff
Views of the Castle Park



© Hubert Bouvet



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Press visuals

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« Stockage »
© Luzia Simons



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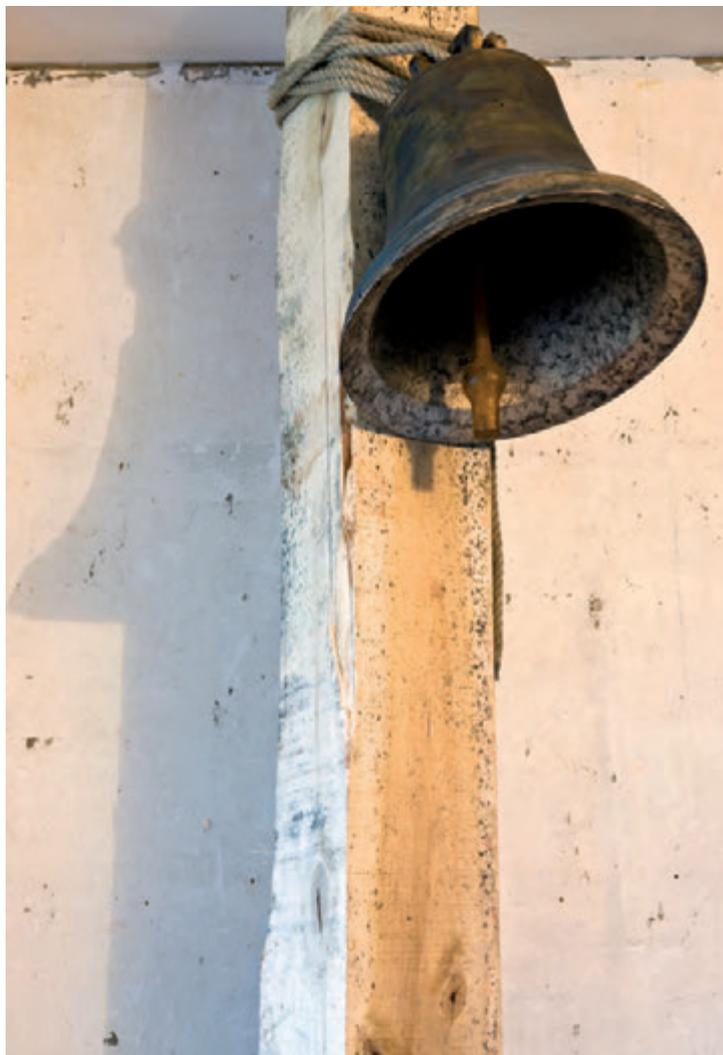


« Arbres sacrés »
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Press visuals

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Photos
Jannis Kounellis
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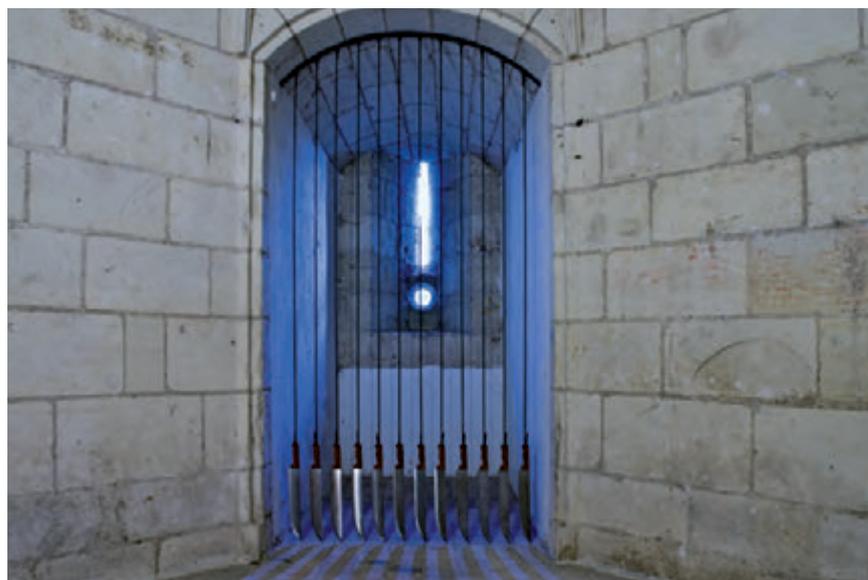


Press visuals

DomainedeChaumont-sur-Loire



Photos
Jannis Kounellis
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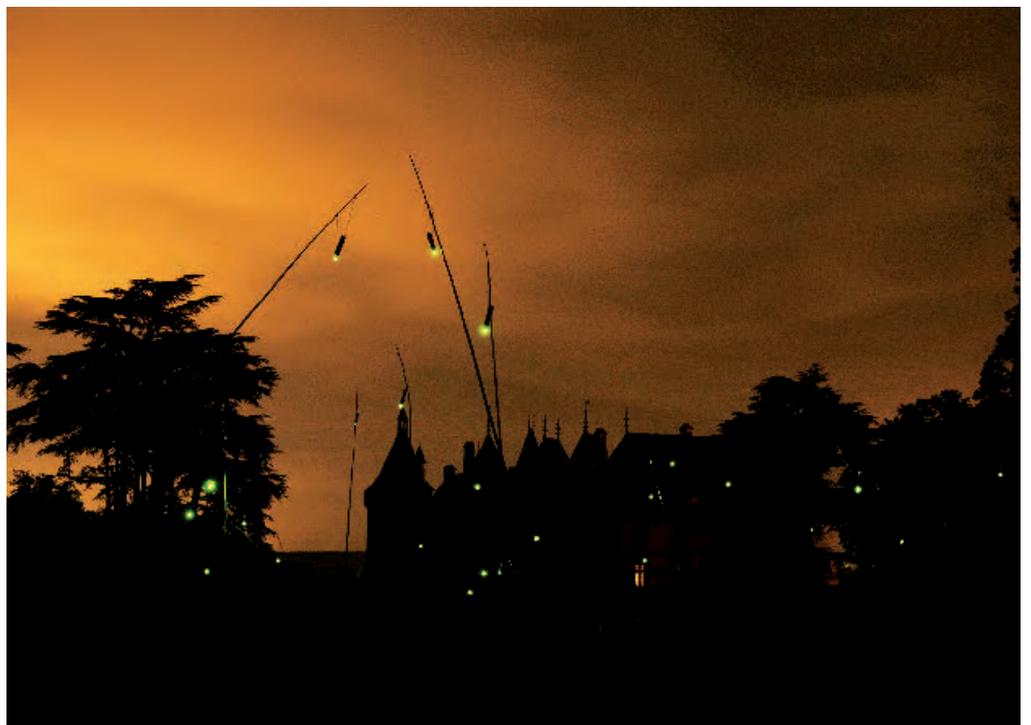
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Press visuals

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Press visuals

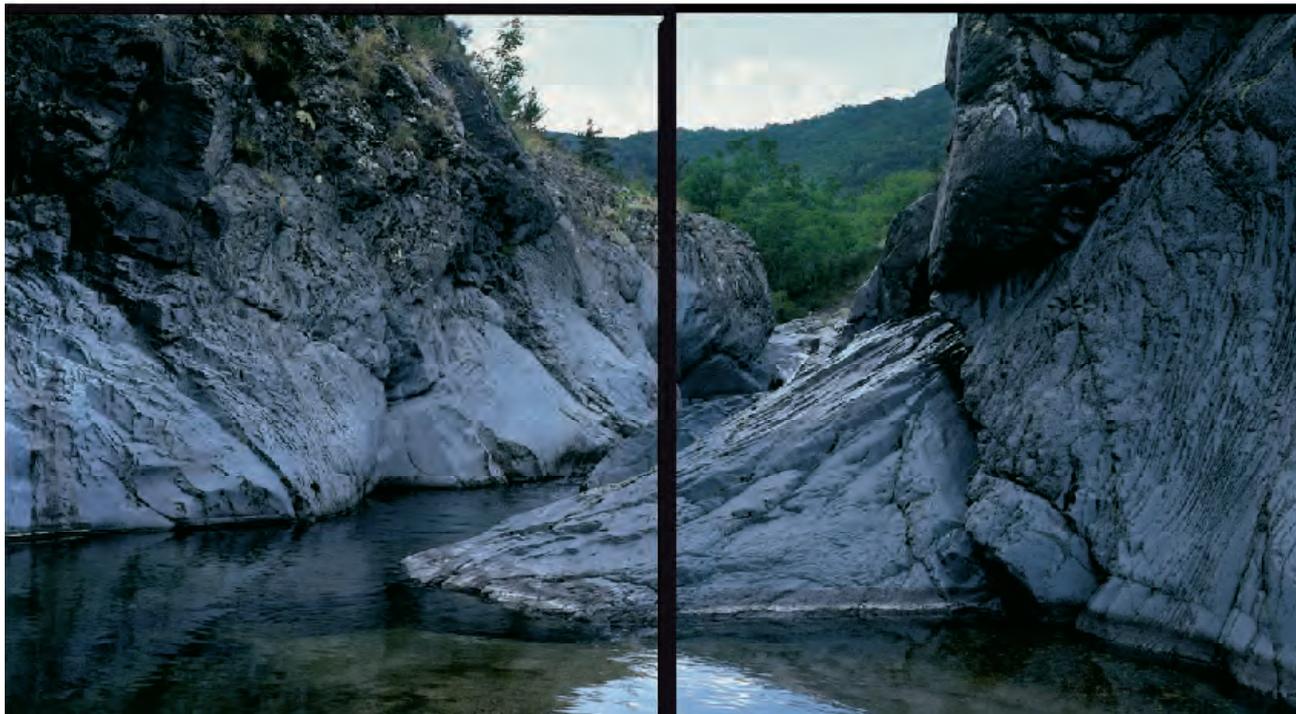
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« Bach »
© Nils Udo



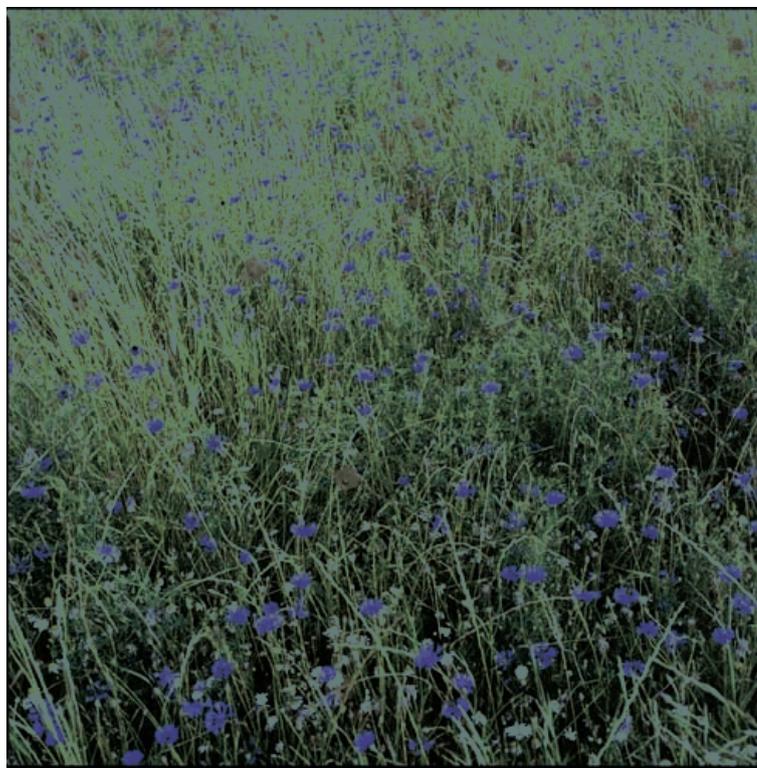
« Pittoresque »
©DimitriXenakis&MaroAvrabou





«Reconnaissance de la rivière»

© Jean-Louis Elzéard



«Ce printemps, le printemps
encore réinventera les prés»

© Jean-Louis Elzéard

Press visuals

DomainedeChaumont-sur-Loire



Photo
RodneyGraham



« Les racines des légumes »
© Jacqueline Salmon



Press visuals

DomainedeChaumont-sur-Loire



Walking Piece
©GuillaumeViaud

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Public Institution for Cultural Cooperation created by the Centre Region and the Commune of Chaumont-sur-Loire

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- The International Garden Festival is open every day from 9.30 AM – 9.00 PM, 29 April – 18 October 2009. A guided tour of selected gardens lasts approximately 1¼ hours. A minimum of 2 hours is required for the visit.
- As from April, the castle is open from 10.00 AM – 6.00 PM (hours vary according to the season). Self-guided tours, guided tours.
- Price for the Castle & Park: Adult: €8.00 Children: €5.50 (12-18 years old) and €3.00 (6-11 years old).
- Price for combined ticket Castle, Park & Garden Festival: Adult: €15.00 Children: €10.00 (12-18 years old) and €5.00 (6-11 years old).
- Chaumont-sur-Loire is situated between Blois and Tours, 185 km from Paris. Motorway A10 and A85, Blois or Amboise exit. Several direct train services each day on the Paris Austerlitz - Orléans - Tours line, Onzain station stop.

Press agency for the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

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