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# **9 MAY 2023**

# **THE CARRÉ D'ART TURNS 30**

# **THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART OF**

# **THE CITY OF NIMES**

**THE CARRÉ D'ART WILL TURN THIRTY ON MAY 9, 2023.**

**ITS BUILDING, DESIGNED BY ENGLISH ARCHITECT LORD NORMAN FOSTER, MAKES A STRONG ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT. IT PRESIDES OVER THE HEART OF THE CITY, ON THE SITE OF THE ANCIENT ROMAN FORUM AND TEMPLE, FROM WHICH IT DERIVES ITS NAME, THE MAISON CARRÉ "THE SQUARE HOUSE".**

**THE MUSEUM'S 2023 SEASON WILL BE DEDICATED TO CELEBRATING ITS COLLECTION, ONE OF THE MOST EXTENSIVE CONTEMPORARY ART COLLECTIONS, BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. THE CARRÉ D'ART'S THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY WILL ALSO MARK THE BEGINNING OF AN ERA IN THE CITY OF NIMES WHERE CONTEMPORARY ART WILL BE OCCUPYING A KEY POSITION IN THIS CITY, WHICH IS POSSESSED OF AN EXCEPTIONAL HISTORICAL HERITAGE, BUT WHOSE IDENTITY IS ALSO RESOLUTELY MODERN.**

## FOREWORD

The city of Nîmes aims high when it comes to cultural offerings, and is possessed of a variety of cultural establishments, in which diverse areas of culture, savoir-faire and traditions are represented. In 2023, the city of Nîmes will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Carré d'Art, inaugurated on May 9, 1993. Its building, designed by English architect Lord Norman Foster, makes a strong architectural statement. It presides over the heart of the city, on the site of the ancient Roman forum, in complete harmony with the Roman temple the Maison Carrée.

Located on an exceptional site, the mission of the Carré d'Art – Museum of Contemporary Art is to collect, preserve, and present contemporary works of art, making them accessible to the widest public possible through exhibitions, publications and pedagogical projects.

## CITY-WIDE EXHIBITIONS

The main focus of the 2023 cultural program will be dedicated to the celebration of this anniversary. It will be an ideal occasion to highlight the Carré d'Art's rich collection. Its first acquisitions were made back in 1986 through a partnership between the Ministry of Culture and the city of Nîmes. It is worthwhile to note that all public collections are nontransferable.

Since the museum's inauguration, the Carré d'Art's collection has grown considerably through the generous donations of artists, collectors and galleries. Today, the museum's collection is one of the major collections of contemporary arts, both nationally and worldwide.

From March to December, this 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated with exhibitions of contemporary art throughout the city at the following venues: the Musée du Vieux Nîmes, the Museum of Natural History, the Musée des Beaux-Arts, the Musée des Cultures Taurines, and the Musée de la Romanité. As of April 21,

the Musée de la Romanité will feature a solo exhibition by Oliver Laric, who worked with the archaeological collections.

As Jean-Paul Fournier, Mayor of Nîmes, affirms: *"Nîmes is a city with an exceptional historical heritage, poised amidst 2,000 years of history, and yet it remains a resolutely modern city, one firmly planted in its times. Created thirty years ago by Lord Norman Foster, the Carré d'Art is a perfect illustration of the city's dual identity. This anniversary is the occasion to rediscover the splendid exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, whose international renown stands on its own."*

According to Sophie Roulle, Assistant Commissioner of Culture, *"Under the leadership of Jean-Marc Prévost, the Director of the Carré d'Art, who will coordinate the events to commemorate the museum's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, all the museums of the city will provide visitors with a space dedicated to contemporary art from the Carré d'Art's collections."*



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## A SINGULAR PERSPECTIVE ON CONTEMPORARY ART

Today, museums have a particular role to play in understanding the past, and conceiving the future. They offer a critical space to counter the spectacularization and instrumentalization of art.

When taking a critical look at the works of a collection, it is important to perceive them in their historical context, whether esthetic or political, in terms of their links with the present and the future. The collection is presented from a specific perspective, a precise moment in which globalization, social networks, and new ecological and social issues have deeply changed the way in which we relate to the world.

The exhibition of any museum collection will always be a learning process, something that will raise questions. With each story one chooses to tell, there are necessarily others that get left behind.

Although the Carré d'Art's mission is not specifically universalist, the works shown demonstrate that, over the last decades, it has become clear that Europe and the United States are no longer the only continents in play. Other parts of the world, such as the Middle East or Asia, have carved out their reputations, showing the complexity of the world in which we live. Over these last years, a reinterpretation of history has enabled us to rethink the places and visibility of women and minorities in the collection, as well as the programs.

## THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL DESTINATION AS OF 2024

*« The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Carré d'Art marks the launch of a new initiative, one where contemporary art will be center stage. Consequently, as of 2024, the Mayor of Nîmes, Jean-Paul Fournier, and myself have set out to coordinate a major event of international scope, dedicated to contemporary art, but based locally, one which includes the population of Nîmes and local artists. We have just chosen the Artistic Director for it, and the result will be the creation of a new destination, one that will develop another form of cultural expression, one focused on the future, which will further increase the appeal of our city. »*  
Sophie Roulle, Assistant Commissioner of Culture



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## AN ARCHITECTURE THAT MELTS THE ANCIENT WITH THE CONTEMPORARY

The inauguration in 1993 of the Carré d'Art was a landmark event that marked the successful commitment to contemporary art and the decentralization policies undertaken in France as of the 1980s. Following the example of its Parisian counterpart, the Centre Georges Pompidou, the Carré d'Art became the site of a multimedia library and a contemporary art museum, providing a new public space for both the people of Nîmes and visitors from all over the world.

The Carré d'Art's distinctive and internationally renowned architectural features provided an optimal location and it quickly became a key cultural landmark of the city.

The name "Carré d'Art" was derived from its close proximity to the Maison Carrée, an ancient Roman temple dating back to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE, and it was conceived as a contemporary complement to this monument.

The contemporary building is a work in glass, concrete and steel conceived by Lord Norman Foster, an internationally renowned British architect, and one of the main proponents of contemporary architecture. The result is a large rectangular parallelepiped in glass with lines of perfect purity; its main feature is its transparency.

Another essential element of this architectural design is a central atrium, inspired by the inner courtyards of the traditional homes of Nîmes, which is topped by a glass roof that allows for a maximum amount of light to penetrate within.



View of the Nouveau Réalisme section (photo C. Eymenier)

## THE COLLECTION

Instituted in 1986, the museum's collection comprises almost 600 works created from 1960 to the present day. They are grouped into three principal categories:

- The representation of movements that originated in the south of France, such as Nouveau Réalisme, Supports-Surfaces, and Figuration Libre (known in the US as Neo-Expressionism);
- Arte Povera: including the works of Mario Merz, Giuseppe Penone, Alighiero Boetti and Giovanni Anselmo;
- Key works of American artists such as Richard Artschwager, Allan Kaprow, Joseph Kosuth and Christopher Wool, as well as German painting, including the works of Gerhard Richter, Sigmar Polke and Albert Oehlen, along with installations by Thomas Schütte.
- Sophie Calle, Annette Messager and Suzanne Lafont, key figures of the French art scene, are also represented in the collection through a series of photographic works and installations.
- New acquisitions include the works of artists like Walid Raad, Ryan Gander, Georg Baselitz and Taryn Simon.



# **EN 2023, NÎMES CÉLÈBRE L'ART CONTEMPORAIN**

## **THE COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM**

**TO COMMEMORATE THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARRÉ D'ART, JEAN-MARC PRÉVOST, THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE CARRÉ D'ART MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, HAS JOINED FORCES WITH THE FIVE OTHER MAJOR MUSEUMS OF NÎMES, THE LIBRARY OF THE CARRÉ D'ART, AND THE ÉCOLE SUPÉRIEURE DES BEAUX-ARTS, TO CREATE A PROGRAM OF EXHIBITIONS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS, ORGANIZED AROUND SEVERAL LANDMARK MOMENTS.**

## **MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

**A series of exhibitions will provide a special perspective of the works in the permanent collection, situating them within their historical context, whether it be esthetic or political.**

**The collection will be presented at a precise moment, and will be featured from several perspectives, all designed to create a narrative of the artistic activity of the last decades. As the works that are part of this narrative unfold, they will pave the way for many more works to come in the future.**



View, Arte Povera Room (photo C. Eymenier)

## LA MÉLODIE DES CHOSES "THE MELODY OF THINGS" PERSPECTIVES ON THE COLLECTION

*Exhibitions from 9 May  
to 17 September, 2023*

Carré d'Art  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors

This exceptional presentation provides an opportunity to discover or view once again works from the movements of the 1960s, such as Nouveau Réalisme and Supports-Surfaces.

It also includes more contemporary offerings, along with French and German paintings from the 1980s, and the presence of major artists. The exhibition space will cover two levels of the museum.

One will notably be able to see the ways in which figuration and abstraction maintain a dialogue that is consistently renewed, as

well as the importance of narrative in the creation of images and representations of the world. The exhibition will also highlight the diversity of media used over the last decades: painting, assemblage, installation, video, and performance. All of these works enable us to invent new esthetics and sensibilities in relation to the world around us.

This selection is completed by the reflections of three artists from different generations, all linked to the history of the museum, Tarik Kiswanson, Suzanne Lafont, and Walid Raad.

**Yves KLEIN - Niki de SAINT-PHALLE - BEN - Daniel SPOERRI - ARMAN - Jacques VILLEGLE - François DUFRENE - Raymond HAINS - CESAR - Robert FILLIOU - Vlado MARTEK - ON KAWARA - Goran TRBULJAK - Claude VIALLAT - Simon HANTAI - Daniel DEZEUZE - Patrick SAYTOUR - André-Pierre ARNAL - Olivier MOSSET - Daniel BUREN - Niele TORONI - Toni GRAND - Bernard PAGES - Alain CLEMENT - Stéphane BORDARIER - Bernard FRIZE - Bertrand LAVIER - Richard BAQUIE - Gerard GAROUSTE - Miquel BARCELO - Jean-Charles BLAIS - Robert COMBAS - Jean-Michel ALBEROLA - Christian BOLTANSKI - Alighiero e Boetti - Pino PASCALI - Mario MERZ - Barry FLANAGAN - Giuseppe PENONE - Jannis KOUNELLIS - Jean AZEMARD - Jean-Pierre BERTRAND - Cristina IGLESIAS - Juan MUNOZ - Robert BREER - Hans-Peter FELDMANN - Markus RAETZ - Larry BELL - Richard ARTSCHWAGER - Alan CHARLTON - Lili DOUJOURIE - Charlotte POSENENSKE - Dan FLAVIN - Christopher WOOL - Georg BASELITZ - Günther FORG - Sigmar POLKE - Gerhard RICHTER**



Paul MPAGI SEPUYA, *Drop Scene* (\_1030373), 2018. © Paul Mpagi Sepuya

## REFLECTIONS ON A COLLECTION BY WALID RAAD AND TARIK KISWANSON

*Exhibitions from 9 May  
to 17 September, 2023*

Carré d'Art  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor

### WALID RAAD

Walid Raad first showed his works at the Carré d'Art in 2014, then again in 2021 at the Chapelle des Jésuites. His oeuvre is present in the permanent collection, comprising an ensemble of five works. Raad has been invited to share his perspectives on the collection, and consequently he has proposed a new installation that echoes the history of the museum, poised between fiction and reality. The artist is frequently inspired by archives and the multiplicity of narratives that can be constructed from them. In Madrid, in his 2021 exhibition *Cotton Under My Feet*, the artist focused on the acquisition of the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection by the Spanish state. Before that, he developed a research project on the conditions under which works were lent by the Louvre to the Abu Dhabi Louvre, which had been featured at the Carré d'Art's 2014 exhibition *Préface*. Raad was born in 1967 in Chbanieh, Lebanon. He lives and works between Beirut and New York.

### PROPOSITION WITH TARIK KISWANSON

Tarik Kiswanson's first solo exhibition at a French institution, *Mirrorbody*, was presented at the Carré d'Art. Several of his works are preserved in the museum's collection. They explore questions of uprooting, transformation, memory and time, which are at the heart of the human condition. The selection presented in the last three rooms of the museum endeavors to shed light on certain recent donations to the collection, notably ones linked to the presence of body, movement, identity, memory, and the different ways one can construct a narrative. These are all current issues pertaining to subjects relating to esthetics and politics through the offerings of artists committed to the world that is our own. Kiswanson was born in Sweden in 1986. He lives and works in Paris, France.

Jumana MANNA - Rosalind NASHASHIBI - Nairy BAGHRAMIAN - Paul MPAGI SEPUYA - Zoe LEONARD - Suzanne LAFONT - EtelADNAN - Thomas SCHUTTE - Sam CONTIS - Jean-Luc MOULENE - Carole DOUILLARD - Babette MANGOLTE - Walid RAAD - Uriel ORLOW - Sophie CALLE - Akram ZAATARI - Tarik KISWANSON - Latoya RUBY FRAZIER - Anne BOGHIGUIAN - Danh VO - Wolfgang TILLMANS - Christodoulos PANAYIOTOU



Akram ZAATARI, *Faces to Faces #4*, 2017 © Akram Zaatari

**A LOOK AT THE PHOTOGRAPHY  
COLLECTION OF THE MUSEUM BY SUZANNE  
LAFONT**

*Exhibition from 9 May  
to 17 September, 2023*

Carré d'Art  
Foster Gallery

Suzanne Lafont was introduced to the Carré d'Art in 2015 with her exhibition *Situations*. Several of her works are held in the museum's collection. Lafont creates a photographic oeuvre with a large perspective that encompasses references to theater, performance and cinema.

Her proposal is to invoke the view of a city in a state of war or insurrection, using a selection of images from the museum's photographic holdings. Peripheral urban images surround a focal flash point beset by trouble and danger. It is peopled by inhabitants but it is not clear whether they are friends or enemies. Elements for survival are included in the ensemble: food, clothing, sleep, dance. In this presentation, images that are not available but necessary to the proposal will be represented in the form of posters in their original dimensions. They will be accompanied by the titles of the works, the names of the artists, and the reason for which they are not included in the hanging will also be mentioned. Lafont was born in Nimes in 1949. She lives and works in Paris and Saint Ouen.

*Suzanne Lafont's  
exhibition has been  
selected to be part of  
Grand Arles Express at the  
Rencontres d'Arles Photo  
Festival.*

**GRAND ARLES  
EXPRESS 2023**  
LES RENCONTRES  
DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE

**Sam CONTIS  
Stan DOUGLAS  
Latoya Ruby FRAZIER  
Suzanne LAFONT  
Jean-Luc MOULENE**

**Walid RAAD  
Mimmo ROTELLA  
Thomas SCHUTTE  
Thomas STRUTH  
Akram ZAATARI**



Martine SYMS, *Ugly Plymouths*, 2020 © Martine Syms, courtesy Sadie Coles HQ, Londres



## MARTINE SYMS - UGLY PLYMOUTHS

*Exhibition from 9 May to 17 September, 2023*

Martine Syms makes use of video, with a preference for short formats, to explore the representations of black bodies in contemporary visual culture. In *Ugly Plymouths*, Syms pursues her exploration of performance, narration, and the various methods of image production. The film shots range from beach scenes to daily activities, all accompanied by a dialogue of three characters who are not visible onscreen. Los Angeles is seen as both a location and a situation.

*Syms' exhibition has been selected to be part of Grand Arles Express at the Rencontres d'Arles Photo Festival.*

**GRAND ARLES  
EXPRESS 2023**  
LES RENCONTRES  
DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE

Carré d'Art,  
Atrium Gallery (Level -1)

## ARTIST'S BOOKS

*Exhibition from 9 May to 30 June, 2023  
at the Archive Center, Carré d'Art*

Artist's books are the focus of this exhibition. The public will be able to discover the various ways in which the artists of the collection have appropriated this medium: Etel Adnan, Jean-Michel Alberola, Anna Boghiguian, Robert Filliou, Annette Messenger, Martial Raysse, Niki de Saint-Phalle, Daniel Spoerri... along with several artist's books by Christian Boltanski, which were acquired by the museum between 2014 and 2018, as a result of a generous donation by Bob Calle (the first curator of the museum, who passed away in 2015).

Carré d'Art,  
Bob Calle Archive Center  
(Level - 1)



## **SUPRA !**

*Exhibition from October to December 2023*

Did you know that we can levitate objects at certain temperatures? That we have known that a piece of lead falls just as fast as a feather since the time of Galileo in the 17<sup>th</sup> century? That it is possible to measure acceleration using the component of one's smartphone used to move from portrait to landscape display?

**The exhibition-workshop Supra is a modular exhibition deployed over 250 m<sup>2</sup>. Its objective is to take up the challenge of making physics accessible to everyone.** Designers and physicists have come together to create this exhibition to popularize physics and make concepts and phenomena that are generally little known accessible to the general public. Some of these phenomena are spectacular, such

as the concept of superconductivity, discovered at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This exhibition was conceived in 2018 as a co-production of three organizations: La Physique Autrement (Research team from the Laboratoire de Physique des Solides, University of Paris Saclay), La Rotonde (CCSTI de Mines Saint-Etienne) and the Cité du Design in Saint-Etienne.

**The subject of the exhibition is at the heart of a key moment in the cultural initiative program, dedicated to the popularization of science, and will also inaugurate the beginning of the Year of Physics.**

Carré d'Art,  
Atrium Gallery, Atrium (Level -1)  
and the Foster Gallery (ground floor)



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## 30 YEARS: CARRÉ D'ART-LIBRARY

### LITERARY BALL, WRITING PERFORMANCE, AND PUBLIC DANCE PARTY

*Tuesday, 9 May, 19:30*

On the evening of May 9<sup>th</sup>, the hall of the Carré d'Art will be transformed into a podium to host a dance party. Writers will gather to lend their many voices to tell a unique story, one written by many hands over a period of twenty-four hours. The spectators-dancers are thus invited to listen quietly to each text and then dance like mad to each bit of music!

### LES IMPROMPTUS

*May and June 2023*

Each week, students from the Conservatory of Nîmes will provide impromptu performances at the heart of the library's collections: concerts, chamber music, lectures, performances, and flash dances will pop up all through May and June. Each week will provide surprises!



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## OUTSIDE EXHIBITIONS

The Carré d'Art's thirtieth anniversary festivities will extend to other museums in the city, with a display of contemporary artworks that resonate with their collections.



Martial RAYESSE, *La Source*, 1990 © ADAGP Paris 2023

### - **MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS, MARTIAL RAYESSE**

*Exhibition from 25 March to 3 December 2023*

A presentation of the works of Martial Raysse, from the collections of the Carré d'Art. His oeuvre is represented by an important ensemble of seven works dating from 1962 to 1990. Raysse's work can also be found in the city of Nîmes, notably two monumental works, public commissions as part of an urban development initiative for the Place d'Assas and the Place du Marché.



Sylvain FRAYSSE, *Proposal for the La FERIA poster*, 2013. © ADAGP Paris 2023

### - **THE MUSÉE DES CULTURES TAURINES ON THE BILL! THE FERIA THROUGH THE EYES OF CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS**

*Exhibition from 13 May to 31 October, 2023*

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Carré d'Art, the Musée des Cultures Taurines has decided to present the original works that were used for the creation of the posters for the Feria of Nîmes.



Anna BOGHIGUIAN, *Nemausus*, 2016 © Anna Boghiguian

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**MUSÉE DU VIEUX NÎMES**  
**FROM NÎMES TO THE NILE**

*Exhibition from 9 June to 19 November, 2023*

The Musée du Vieux Nîmes has preserved an exceptional collection of textiles related to the history of the city. This exhibition will bring together a set of works from the Carré d'Art collection which use textiles as a medium.



Jean-Luc MOULENE, *Vanité*, 1996. Photo Cédric Eymenier. © ADAGP Paris 2023

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**MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**  
**PRIMARY COLLECTIONS**

*Exhibition from 15 June to 19 November, 2023*

The 30th anniversary of the Carré d'Art has created the opportunity for a dialogue between the collections of the two museums. The Prehistory, Ethnology and Geology rooms will play host to the works of Jean-Michel Othoniel, Ugo Rondinone, Jean-Luc Moulène and Philippe Favier. The themes will range from the first objects created by human hands, Primary Art masks, as well as samples of primary materials.



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**MUSÉE DE LA ROMANITÉ**  
**OLIVER LARIC – LIVING MEMORY**

*Exhibition from 21 April to 31 December, 2023*

Presentation of an exhibition featuring the works of Oliver Laric, who will be focusing on the collections of the Musée de la Romanité using a digital creative process.



Noé SOULIER, *Fragments*, 2022, vue du film. Photo Fragments-Noe-Soulier-Cndc-Angers

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**CHAPELLE DES JÉSUITES**  
**NOÉ SOULIER – FRAGMENTS**

*Exhibition from 9 May to 3 September*

*Fragments*, a film by Noé Soulier, is part of the ongoing research developed by the choreographer since 2010. He explores movement in the context of the camera. The specific spaces created by the frame, defined by its height and dimension, enable one to explore aspects of movement that would otherwise be invisible on the stage.

**GRAND ARLES**  
**EXPRESS 2023**  
LES RENCONTRES  
DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE



Jong Yeon Won

-  
**WORKS IN PROGRESS**  
**WORKS OF FOUR STUDENTS FROM THE ESBAN**  
**FEATURED IN PUBLIC SPACES**

*Exhibition from May to September, 2023*

As part of the festivities for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Carré d'Art, the École des Beaux Arts de Nîmes will offer a selection of works to be displayed in public spaces. The works will be placed in courtyards, and selected spaces throughout the town of Nîmes. They will be placed along a path that begins at the courtyard of the Hôtel de Ville, and fan outwards to several other points in the city.

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