



July 2019

Press Release

THE MARCEL DUCHAMP PRIZE IN SHANGHAI

“Your footsteps are the road, for there is no road”

A tour amid the artists of the Marcel Duchamp Prize.

Exhibition at the MINSHENG ART MUSEUM

6th of September to 20th of October 2019, Shanghai

With the support of the French Embassy in China and the Institut français

Address: Building 3, No.210 Wenshui Rd, Jingan, Shanghai, PR China

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday: 10am – 6pm

This fifth exhibition of the Marcel Duchamp Prize in China proposes a new look at the French scene with 12 winning and nominated artists from the Marcel Duchamp Prize. The curator, Annabelle Ténèze, has chosen works selected through the prism of the road, that is to say the notion of displacement, travel and discovery. Taking as the starting point a verse by the Spanish poet Antonio Machado (1875-1939), “*Your footsteps are the road, for there is no road*”, this project brings together works in which displacement is as much a subject as it is a metaphor. Accordingly, each work becomes an opening, a road to discovery.

Neïl BELOUFA (nominated 2015), **Michel BLAZY** (nominated 2008), **Mohamed BOUROUISSA** (nominated 2018), **Ulla VON BRANDENBURG** (nominated 2016), **Mircea CANTOR** (laureate 2011), **Clément COGITORE** (laureate 2018), **Latifa ECHAKHCH** (laureate 2013), **Joana HADJITHOMAS & Khalil JOREIGE** (laureates 2017), **Camille HENROT** (nominated 2010), **Anri SALA** (nominated 2002) and **Zineb SEDIRA** (nominated 2015).

Curator: **Annabelle TÉNÈZE**, assisted by Daphné MALLET

THE MARCEL DUCHAMP PRIZE INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADOR TO THE FRENCH SCENE

Created in 2000 by the ADIAF, Association for the International Diffusion of French Art, each year the Marcel Duchamp Prize honours a winner from among four artists, either French or residing in France, working in the field of the plastic and visual arts. Organized from the outset in partnership with the Centre Pompidou, this collector's prize has acquired worldwide prestige, placing it today among the major national benchmark prizes on the international scene.

The Marcel Duchamp Prize has purposely chosen to recognize the most innovative artists of their generation in the aim of encouraging and confronting all artistic forms: painting, sculpture, video, photography, installation... With more than 80 artists distinguished since its creation in 2000, including 18 winners, the Marcel Duchamp Prize provides **a wide panorama of the many varied contemporary art trends in France** today. The organization of exhibitions of the artists singled out by this prestigious prize throws invaluable light on the energy and vitality of the current French scene. To date, the ADIAF can be credited with fifty of so exhibitions, including 20 worldwide

After a first exhibition in China in the French pavilion of the Shanghai World Fair in 2010, in 2017, then in 2018, ADIAF had the pleasure of being invited by the French Embassy in China and the Institut Français for the Croisements Festival in order to present current-day French creation. The positive feedback from the *High Tension* exhibitions, **(Curator: Alfred Paquement)** presented in 2017 at the **Red Brick Art Museum (Beijing)** and the **Time Museum (Canton)**, as well as *Le Grand Ecart / Bridging the gap* **(Curator: Jérôme Sans)**, shown in Beijing in 2018 at the **Tsinghua University Art Museum** has persuaded the organizers of this great festival – the most important French festival abroad – to renew its invitation for the 2019 edition.

Presented last spring in Beijing at the Red Brick Art Museum, **the exhibition *Toi qui chemines il n'y a pas de chemin / Your footsteps are the road, for there is no road*, curated by Annabelle Ténèze for the ADIAF, will be inaugurated in Shanghai on the 6th of September at the Minsheng Art Museum, which will be hosting 12 artists from the Marcel Duchamp Prize in a special scenography created for the new exhibition spaces of the museum.**

“Creating is a physical as well as a spiritual road, it is an act of movement towards something unknown.”

This exhibition proposes a selection of works by artists from the Marcel Duchamp Prize seen through the prism of the road, that is to say, displacement, travel and discovery. Taking as the starting point a verse by the Spanish poet Antonio Machado (1875-1939), *“Your footsteps are the road, for there is no road”*, this project brings together works in which displacement is as much a subject as it is a metaphor.

The artists whose works are presented in this project appropriate every means of locomotion possible, from the simplest to the most universal – walking - to the most technological and reserved for just a few - a spaceship. In fact, art history has often been connected to displacement or travel: whether it's the ancestral figure of the walking man, present from antiquity to Auguste Rodin, or the Grand Tour of Europe, a prerequisite in the apprenticeship of the artists of modern times, or even the sketches or travel diaries of painters, such as Eugène Delacroix's famous Journal, right up to the road movie, one of the most appreciated genres in literature and film since the 1950s. The explosion of modes of transport since the 19th century up until the present day have not only revolutionized our lifestyles but also introduced geographic identities and opened up the scope of new storytelling possibilities.

What motivates the fact of leaving, for an hour, a day, a week, a year or a lifetime? Don't we take footsteps every day? Although the quest for new horizons or a return home decide the aim of an odyssey, it is really the path of that same odyssey which, as with Ulysses, constructs the hero and transforms the one who is advancing, even more so than the goal itself, as Antonio Machado's verse also reminds us. Several of the works presented, with a humanist, poetic or political resonance, are fixed within in the history of a place but also in a universal human reality, in the fear and the hope aroused by the change in the journey and the meeting with other cultures. The artists working on departure are questioning the notion of uprooting and sometimes re-rooting. Passing from one universe to the other, discovering roads, but also taking the roads that others have taken before us, is a way of getting closer to what is real, of defining or pushing back the boundaries of human knowledge.

What is revealed by the fact of moving, of wanting to leave, or of being pushed to leave, of searching for a means to go further, and towards where, and how? In **Michel Blazy's** work, everyday shoes themselves become the stationary support of a stroll: nature takes hold of the latest fashion sneakers wherever vegetation is growing. In the installations of **Ulla von Brandenburg** and **Latifa Echakhch**, spectators are invited to walk through the sky of a mural painting or the colours of an installation in fabric, in order to discover new objects. Taking to the road is as much about coming together as it is about becoming separated, about meeting again as it is about running away.

Neil Beloufa's work is a static road-movie where the window of a stationary car and the camera's lens are mistaken for each other, offering us an open door to the friendly and amorous discussion taking place between young people. **Mohamed Bourouissa's** project brings together the communities of Philadelphia around a rodeo, whilst the cars like contemporary frameworks become supports for drawing. The road is a place of exploration, of the discovery of others and of encounters, like those of the urban and baroque opera dancers in **Clément Cogitore's** work. As for **Camille Henrot**, she transforms the contemporary experience of the airport and proposes that we leave for past or future cities. **Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige** recreate the utopic story of a Lebanese space program and recreate the pathway of that spaceship on earth, along the roads of Istanbul, in particular. As with travelling, the impossibility of travel is also revealing, like the halting race of a young female musician through a besieged Sarajevo by **Anri Sala** or as in **Zineb Sedira's** Mauritian shipwreck graveyards. The latter also underline the ecological consequences of the industrialization of travel, as does **Mircea Cantor's work**, where we are wondering who is going to win the race between nature and technological culture, between the eagle or the drone.

The works gathered together in this project recall how creating is as much a physical as it is a spiritual road and that it is an act of movement towards something unknown, which can be as dangerous as it is exciting. Departure is an act of emancipation and confrontation: it is up to each person to experience the freedom of escaping, of getting lost, of finding yourself, of leaving in a car, on a bike, in a tunnel, or of building a rocket heading for space... of going towards art, as each work is in itself a road.

Annabelle Ténèze

The exhibition curator

Former student of the Ecole des Chartes et de l'Institut national du Patrimoine, **Annabelle Ténèze** is Head Curator of Heritage and Director General of the Abattoirs, Musée-FRAC Occitanie Toulouse since 2016. Annabelle Ténèze was the curator of the cabinet d'arts graphiques at the musée national Picasso-Paris before becoming Director of the musée départemental d'art contemporain de Rochechouart, then the Abattoirs in Toulouse. She teaches at the Ecole du Louvre where she has been in charge of specialized classes in "20th century art" and has published several catalogues on Pop Art. These last few years she has devoted herself in particular to exhibitions of Eduardo Basualdo, Eduardo Chillida, David Claerbout, Raoul Hausmann, Hessie, Jacqueline de Jong, Renaud Jerez, Kent Monkman, Laure Prouvost, Judit Reigl, Maya Rochat, Carolee Schneemann and Daniel Spoerri ... as well as the African, Columbian, Spanish and French art scenes.

ARTISTS AND WORKS ON SHOW

Twelve artists, laureates and nominees of the Marcel Duchamp Prize, have been selected for this new ADIAF exhibition in China on show from the 6th of September in Shanghai at the **Minsheng Art Museum**

About the museum

Inspired by the ideals of social responsibility and cultural development, the **Minsheng Art Museum** is an art institution initiated and established by China Minsheng Banking Corporation Ltd. The Museum's exhibitions and programming are inspired by the Minsheng Bank's values of serving public welfare and developing social culture. The bank views building a world-class art museum as an important way to take social responsibility and repay society. Through cross-regional, interdisciplinary and multicultural cooperation with various institutions, the museum seeks to bridge gaps across various art sectors, narrow the distance between contemporary art and the general public, become a significant international base for the display and exchange of art and culture, and achieve the mission of "bringing art to the public (Minsheng), and bringing the public (Minsheng) to art."

NEÏL BELOUFA, artist nominated for the 2015 Marcel Duchamp Prize

Born in 1985, lives and works in Paris.

Represented by: Galerie Balice Hertling, Paris; Mendes Wood, New York and Sao Paulo; Galleria Zero, Milan; Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles

Brune Renault, 2009

Video and installation

15' loop, HDCAM, 2010, 5+2 AP, 17min45

Courtesy of the artist and Kamel Mennour, Paris/London

Noticed for his complex installations mixing video, sculpture and painting, the Franco-Algerian artist Neïl Beloufa proposes the critical eye of a young cosmopolitan playing between the documentary and fiction, and the realistic and lack of realism. He combines images and sculptures in his immersive installations staging his videos in uncertain places: film sets, precarious structures, artisan and constructed work, etc. In this way, he questions how we receive images in the current digital era, not only of our personal exchanges but also of historical events. In *Brune Renault*, we discover the friendly conversation between a group of young people in a road-movie that proves to be static, the car being stopped and cut into pieces, like a journey going nowhere, except or rather, towards oneself.

MICHEL BLAZY artist nominated for the 2008 Marcel Duchamp Prize

Born in 1966, lives and works in Paris

Represented by: galerie Art: Concept, Paris

Running Shanghai, 2019

Mixed media

262 x 262 x 270cm

© Michel Blazy/ADAGP

Michel Blazy develops an ephemeral and unpredictable work where he favours everyday humble or technological materials and living matter. In this way, he creates works in movement, evolving in front of us during the exhibition and questioning the passing of time, the cycle of life and of nature, as well as its destruction. In this exhibition, the shoes, which normally allow us to move in the landscape, become a static place where nature and plants are going to take over, where they are going to grow and then decompose like an unusual miniature garden.

ULLA VON BRANDENBURG, artist nominated for the 2016 Marcel Duchamp Prize

Born in 197

4 in Karlsruhe, Germany, lives and works in Paris

Represented by: Galerie Art: Concept, Paris; Pilar Corrias, London; Produzentengalerie, Hamburg

Two Times Seven II 2018

Fabrics, cords, stepladder, wooden benches, fishing rods (variable dimensions),

Super 16mm film to HD video, colour, sound (10'),

Courtesy the artist, Art: Concept, Paris, Meyer Riegger, Berlin/Karlsruhe, Pilar Corrias Gallery, London and Produzentengalerie, Hamburg

©忠泰美術館 Jut Art Museum

Films, performances, installations and objects, music, drawings... Ulla von Brandenburg's work firmly fixes its inspiration in literature, art history, architecture and the theatre. With her drawings, her fabric installations and her performances, **Ulla Von Brandenburg** invites us to travel in time and space. Thanks to creations close to the theatrical, she stages our progress through colour using curtains in mysterious fabric, without our knowing what is going to be unveiled to us at the end of the road.

MOHAMED BOUROUISSA, artist nominated for the 2018 Marcel Duchamp Prize

Born in 1978 at Blida in Algeria, lives and works in Paris

Represented by: kamel mennour, Paris/London

Horse Day, 2015

Stills - Video (colour, sound), 13 min 32 sec

Production MOBILES, with the help of PMU / Production MOBILES, with PMU support

© ADAGP Mohamed Bourouissa

Courtesy of the artist and kamel mennour, Paris/London

Mohamed Bourouissa who became known through a series of photographs portraying young suburban teenagers, is inspired by everyday life, contemporary allegories and urban myths. During a residence of several months in Philadelphia, he became interested in the history but also in the current events of American culture, such as cowboys or the myth of the automobile. For the *Horse Day* project, he approached some community stables in a deprived area and organized a rodeo with Afro-American riders, which is the starting point of a film about regaining self-assertion

MIRCEA CANTOR, laureate of the 2011 Marcel Duchamp Prize

Born in 1977 in Oradea, Romania, lives and works on Earth

Represented by: VNH Gallery, Paris

***Aquila non capit muscas* *, 2018**

Colour HD video, 3min 40 sec

Courtesy of the artist & VNH Gallery

*(from the Latin "The eagle doesn't hunt flies")

A figure of the new geography of contemporary art, a nomad considering himself to be without any fixed anchor, Mircea Cantor creates works - videos, photography, drawings, sculptures and installations – simultaneously minimal, poetic and metaphysical. The starting point of "Aquila non capit muscas" (2018) by **Mircea Cantor** is a Latin proverb saying that "the Eagle does not hunt flies". In this new creation, he sets the scene for the race between an eagle and a drone, between the king of birds and one of the very latest human technological inventions. Who is going to win this battle between the forces of nature and culture?

CLÉMENT COGITORE, laureate of the 2018 Marcel Duchamp Prize

Born in 1983 at Colmar, France, lives and works in Paris

Represented by: Galerie Eva Hober, Paris and Galerie Reinhard Hauff, Stuttgart

Les Indes Galantes, 2017

Video, colour, 6 min.

Production: Opéra National de Paris - 3° scene / Les Films Pélleas.

Courtesy of the artist, Reinhard Hauff Gallery (DE) and Eva Hober Gallery (FR).

Mixing films, videos, installations and photography, **Clément Cogitore** questions the ways and means of cohabitation between human beings with their images in the current media world marked by revolutions, new means of communication and social networks. In the exhibition, he appropriates a leading work in French, *Les Indes galantes*, the first opera-ballet by Rameau (1735). Starting from this work purporting an ambiguous humanism, where the spectator of that era is discovering strange countries, Clément Cogitore signs a film in which baroque dance encounters urban culture in a dance from the Los Angeles ghettos, aided and abetted by Krump choreographers and dancers.

LATIFA ECHAKHCH, laureate of the 2013 Marcel Duchamp Prize

Born in 1974 at El Khnansa, Morocco, lives and works between Paris in France and Martigny in Switzerland

Represented by: kamel mennour, Paris/London

Cross Fade, 2016

Installation, fresco painting, concrete

Courtesy of the artist et kamel mennour, Paris/London, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, kaufmann re-petto.

French of Moroccan origin, Latifa Echakhch calls upon geography and the notion of culture as well as personal and collective history. Her subtle and committed works explore the connections between political and socio-cultural reality. In *Cross Fade*, the artist invites the spectator to undertake the utopic experience of walking through the sky but this is a shattered utopia, like a painting fallen to the ground, in freefall. This enigmatic work recalls both the classic story of the fresco and the more recent one of gestural painting where the act of painting is made while walking and the creation sometimes by destroying it.

JOANA HADJITHOMAS & KHALIL JOREIGE,

Laureates of the 2017 Marcel Duchamp Prize

Born in 1969 in Beirut, Lebanon, live and work in Paris and Beirut

Represented by In Situ-Fabienne Leclerc, Paris; The Third Line, Dubai; CRG Gallery, New York

Restaged, 2012

C-Print. 70 x 100 x 5cm.

The President's Album, 2011

Thirty-two folded digital prints, mounted on wood, 120 x 25 x 10cm each

A Carpet..., 2012

Woven rug, 275 x 140cm, Forty printed archival documents and three screens

Courtesy of the artists and In Situ - fabienne leclerc (for the 3 works)

Self-taught, Joana Hadjithomas et Khalil Joreige have become film makers and artists by necessity in the aftermath of the Lebanese civil wars. For more than 15 years, their films but also their works, produced from archives, personal or political stories and documents as well as daily experiences, elaborate the accounts of the stories kept secret in the face of history. In a long-term project, **Johanna Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige** explore the adventure of the Lebanese Rocket Society which at the beginning of the 1960s at the Armenian University of Haigazian in Beirut, saw a group of students and a professor launch the first spaceship in the region. In *Restaged*, the astonishing displacement of the spaceship towards the city contrasts urban reality with the dream of space.

CAMILLE HENROT, artist nominated for the 2010 Marcel Duchamp Prize

Born in 1978, lives and works between Paris et New York

Represented by: kamel mennour, Paris

Arrivals / Departures, 2010

Steel tube supporting structure, 2 monitors 34 inches, media player, video loop of 50 min and steel distribution panel. Adjustable height: 250 to 290cm; width: 206cm

"Perspective", exhibition view, Espace culturel Louis Vuitton, Paris 2010

© ADAGP Camille Henrot

Courtesy of the artist and kamel mennour, Paris / London

Winner of the Silver Lion at the Venice Biennale in 2013 for her video *Grosse fatigue*, **Camille Henrot** asks us to question ourselves about what defines and rules our existence and our relation with the world, and how the relations between authority and knowledge are elaborated. In this way, she explores anthropological references, cultural boundaries and exoticism, but also eroticism or even language in the era of internet and telephonic platforms. In the work presented in the exhibition, she pursues her research and puts into perspective a trip in an airplane. The airport, the customary landscape of any traveller, remains the place where everything is possible, generating as it does a profusion of dreams about unknown and mythical lands.

ANRI SALA, artist nominated for the 2002 Marcel Duchamp Prize

Born in 1974 in Tirana, Albania, lives and works in Berlin

Represented by: galerie Chantal Crousel, Paris, Hauser & Wirth; Esther Schipper, Berlin; Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich

Le Clash, 2010

Single channel HD video and its stereo, 8 min 31 sec.

Courtesy: Galerie Chantal Crousel, Paris; Marian Goodman Gallery; Hauser & Wirth, Esther Schipper, Berlin; kurimanzutto, Mexico City

1395 Days without Red, 2011

Single channel HD video and its stereo, 43 min 46 sec. In collaboration with Liria Bégéja. From a project of Šejla Ka-merić and Anri Sala in collaboration with Ari Benjamin Meyers

Courtesy: Marian Goodman Gallery, New York; Hauser & Wirth

Anri Sala's practice is developed over a wide range of mediums, including video, photography, installation and, more recently, drawing and sculpture. Because the artist grants great importance to light, to sound and scenography, his works are often shown in spaces that stimulate our senses and create a connection between body, architecture and history.

Should I Stay or Should I Go? These are the lyrics of the punk song by the British band *The Clash*. The only thing that remains of it in Anri Sala's video is the tune, played on a barrel organ in a street around a disused concert hall of modernist architecture in Bordeaux, echoing like an unanswered rock lullaby.

The installation on show, *1395 Days without Red, 2011*, gets its title from the number of days that Sarajevo was under siege. In the video the usual rehearsal of the city's Symphony Orchestras is intermingled with the crossing of town by a young female musician on her way to join the orchestra. In this way, the young woman's breathing as she progresses haltingly through the town is mixed with the inevitably more irregular rhythm of the practicing musicians, each of them trying to decipher their partition and their path.

ZINEB SEDIRA, artist nominated for the 2015 Marcel Duchamp Prize

Born in 1963, lives and works between Paris, Algiers and London

Represented by: kamel mennour, Paris

Transmettre en abyme, 2012

Installation video, 3 screens (black and white, colour, sound)

Courtesy of the artist and kamel mennour, Paris

Cap Caxine 1869, 2011

Luminous lightbox, 80 x 120cm

© Zineb Sedira / DACS, London

Courtesy of the artist and kamel mennour, Paris

The Lovers, 2008

Colour photo

120 x 100cm

© Zineb Sedira / DACS, London

Courtesy of the artist and kamel mennour, Paris/London

Born in France of Algerian parents and settled in London, **Zineb Sedira** is interested in the history of the individual and the private and personal caught in the course of history with a capital H, in particular that of Algeria. She has dedicated herself to movements of populations, to mass exodus and journeys but also to melancholy, language and humour. The installation *Transmettre en abyme* retraces the story of the entries and departures of boats in the port of Marseille - one of the main ports in the Mediterranean Sea - over a period of more than 60 years, thanks to the photographs of a shipspotter, thereby materializing the constant flow of humans and material. On the other hand, the artist also questions the impossibility of travel and the ecological disaster of maritime industrialization with her photographs of the shipwreck graveyards at Nouadhibou in Mauritania.



Presided over by Gilles Fuchs, the ADIAF, Association for the International Diffusion of French Art, groups together nearly 400 contemporary art collectors firmly committed to the adventure of creation. Sponsored by art-patron companies, the ADIAF has set itself the task of **highlighting the creative energy and vitality of the French scene at the beginning of the 21st century** and of helping to raise its international profile. Created in 2000 by the ADIAF, the Marcel Duchamp Prize is one of its most outstanding initiatives. Organized from the outset with the Centre Pompidou, this collector's prize intends to bring together the most innovative artists and confront all artistic forms. Each year, it honours a winner from among four French artists or artists residing in France, working in the field of the Plastic and Visual arts: installation, video, painting, photography and sculpture... The four artists nominated for each edition are chosen by a committee of collectors, enthusiastic actors in the art world, which is what make this prize so unique. The "selection of artists" is then submitted to an international jury, uniting experts considered to be authorities in the contemporary art world – curators of major institutions, French and foreign collectors – responsible for choosing the winner to whom the ADIAF offers a financial endowment of 35 000 euros. The selection committee and the jury are renewed each year. Over the years, the Marcel Duchamp has established itself as one of the most relevant vectors of information about contemporary art in France. An Ambassador of the French scene, it has acquired a reputation and prestige placing it **among the top international benchmark prizes in contemporary art**. The fifty or so exhibitions organized to date by the ADIAF worldwide around the Marcel Duchamp Prize throw invaluable light on the current vitality of contemporary art in France.

Laureates of the MARCEL DUCHAMP PRIZE : *Thomas Hirschhorn (2000), Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster (2002), Mathieu Mercier (2003), Carole Benzaken (2004), Claude Closky (2005), Philippe Mayaux (2006), Tatiana Trouvé (2007), Laurent Grasso (2008), Saâdane Afif (2009), Cyprien Gaillard (2010), Mircea Cantor (2011), Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel (2012), Latifa Echakhch (2013), Julien Prévieux (2014), Melik Ohanian (2015), Kader Attia (2016), Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige (2017) and Clément Cogitore (2018).*

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The French Embassy in China by means of its service of cooperation and cultural initiative has the task of spreading French culture throughout China and setting up partnerships between the artistic institutions and cultural economic actors in both countries. Each year, the Embassy coordinates three artistic festivals: The Fête de la Francophonie in March (celebrating its 24th edition in 2019), the Croisements Festival (14th edition) and the Franco-Chinese Month of the Environment 6th edition).

Embassy website: www.ambafrance-cn.org

The “French culture in China” website run by the cultural service: www.faguowenhua.com

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