



SE FAIRE PLAISIR 14.2–27.4.25

**We Are The Painters, Caroline Achaintre,
Victor Alarçon & Nitsa Meletopoulos,
Mireille Blanc, Clément Bouteille,
Stéphanie Cherpin, Afra Eisma, Camille Fischer,
Marianne Marić, Cassidy Toner**

LA
KUNSTHALLE
MULHOUSE
CENTRE D'ART
CONTEMPORAIN

PRESS KIT
FEB–APRIL 2025

SE FAIRE PLAISIR 14.2–27.4.25

An exhibition by Mireille Blanc, Marianne Marić and Sandrine Wymann.

Based on the principle that there should be no stricter rules than emotion and curiosity, the trio has created an exhibition in which gesture and shape are used to explore images and practices that evoke pure pleasure. The project is built on dialogue between the artists themselves as well as between materials and techniques, with the idea of distorting the everyday, hybridizing objects, and creating illusions and artifacts in sculpture, photography, paintings, and installations.

Se faire plaisir [Take Pleasure] echoes the sense of pleasure found in sharing and playfulness, a pleasure felt by the body, taken in by the senses, and which speaks to our emotions.

Designed as a meeting ground for shared experiences, **Se faire plaisir** is a trivium of treble delight, where artists blend their practices under the amused eyes of the exhibition curators, who in turn stage them with caring attention for their visitors. The exhibition hall, transformed with intimate landscapes and inner spaces, becomes a place of inebriation and alliance where objects and decorations remain strange and elusive, and where pleasures intertwine to multiply and distill intense sensations.

Se faire plaisir is imagined as a challenge for us to slip some generosity into our daily lives.

PRESS CONTACT

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We Are The Painters, vue de l'exposition «Come to Us», La Station, Nice, 2018 © photo : Jean Baptiste Ganne

WE ARE THE PAINTERS

***1981, live and work in Paris (FR)**

The signature WATP «We Are The Painters» represents a duo of painters, Nicolas Beaumelle and Aurélien Porte. They work with the explosion of forms, contrasts, colors, and materials, with a preference for abstraction unless their subjects are landscapes or decoration. Their pieces contain the pleasure of abundance, a feeling of excess that pushes them to the limits of the canvas, liberating them from the frame until they slip onto incongruous surfaces unhindered by the conventional history of painting. The seat of a chair, a coat rack or a wall light become ideal surfaces, existing simultaneously as paintings and objects installed in a near-domestic environment. The painting then falls within reach of our own uses during the exhibition; it belongs to those who, rather than being intimidated by it, delight in its proximity.

www.insituparis.fr/fr/artistes/presentation/10609/we-are-the-painters



Caroline Achaintre, «Beedeebee», 2017 | Céramique, 24x29x33 © Caroline Achaintre

CAROLINE ACHAINTRE

***1969, lives and works in London (GB)**

Caroline Achaintre's work creates an extraordinary atmosphere, whether it is in tapestry or ceramics. Inspired by popular cultures, she embraces the genres of horror, science fiction, and the influence of carnival traditions, producing sometimes unidentifiable forms, halfway between accessories and animals but always fully marvelous. Her trust in her own imagination leads her to create pieces that are surprisingly alive and to which one can grow almost excessively attached. We approach her rough-skinned sculptures to better hear what they whisper; we dream of comforting ourselves by lying on her woolly tapestries. Caroline Achaintre has the talent to create works that act as accomplices and which in this exhibition might even become our best friends.

Caroline Achaintre is represented by Art: Concept and Galerie von Bartha

www.galerieartconcept.com/fr/caroline-achaintre-2



Duo Vertigo, «Kitscherie #2», 2022 | Porcelaine, glaçage, or ;
15 x 23 x 11 cm © Victor Alarçon & Nitsa Meletopoulos

VICTOR ALARÇON & NITSA MELETOPOULOS

*1993 & 1984, live and work in Chapaize (FR)

No influence is off limits for Victor Alarçon, whether classical, popular, or fantastic. He relies on his memory and his recollections for references that inspire him to create extroverted-looking pieces with forms and colors that defy classification. For him, «the utilitarian is a motif», and it is within this framework that he situates his work. Bowls, vases, or stools are among the everyday objects that constitute a vocabulary he freely uses, serving his exploration of the gestural characteristics and colors of ceramics. His approach maintains a nearness to play and collaboration as spaces for experimentation and transcendence, and he frequently works in tandem with Nitsa Meletopoulos. For the exhibition, he has produced a series of pieces based on inspirations shared with several other artists in the exhibition..

Victor Alarçon : www.instagram.com/vickyceramic
Duo Vertigo : nitsameletopoulos.com/DUO-VERTIGO



Mireille Blanc, «Chatte meringuée (M.M)», 2024 |
huile sur bois, 30 x 40 cm © Mireille Blanc

MIREILLE BLANC

*1985, lives and works in Evry (FR)

Mireille Blanc does not fear the banality of daily life but elevates it to paint-worthy status via selected details. Within her paintings, disconcerting representations take on proportions that are meticulously chosen to bring us face to face with the experience of letting go. The familiarity of her subjects — a trinket, a slice of cake, the corner of a tablecloth—comforts us at first, but under their insistent gaze, readability blurs and only the kitsch of a motif, the generosity of a texture, or the incongruity of a framing persists. Mireille Blanc chooses the cream over the cake, she prefers the fold to the garment, and scotch tape steals the spotlight from glued paper. She paints from photographs she takes herself or that her friends send her, moving away from the solitude of the painter with this exchange of source images. For *Se faire plaisir*, she has initiated many dialogues that link most of her pieces to other artists in the exhibition.

mireilleblanc.com



Clément Bouteille, Papaver nudicaule, vase Etienne Mauroy

CLÉMENT BOUTEILLE

***1995, lives and works between Paris and Lyon (FR)**

Artist, florist, botanist and gardener, Clément Bouteille composes and arranges the flowers he grows at his “farm”, a garden in the Lyon countryside where he has his greenhouses and conducts his research. Flowers are his medium, a local resource freshly picked and directly arranged according to the season. As a seductive object and a decorative element, the flower is a frequent guest in exhibitions if it is depicted, drawn, printed, or sculpted. But Clément Bouteille sees the flower as it is; he works with it and arranges it, making it the material he shapes, the clay he sculpts, the color he chooses. He accepts its fragility and transience, adapting his pieces to the natural rhythm imposed by the plant. For *Se faire plaisir*, Clément Bouteille uses his floral installations to extend the open spaces provided by other artists. He adorns a vase, inhabits a boot, or reflects a motif, bringing in a delicate breath of air and an idea of lost fragrance.

www.clementbouteille.com



Stéphanie Cherpin, «Palmier du Ghetto» (détail), 2022 | Feuille d'agave en aluminium, faux-ongle © Stéphanie Cherpin

STÉPHANIE CHERPIN

***1979, lives and works between Nice & Marseille (FR)**

Stéphanie Cherpin prefers to work with objects recovered from industrial or suburban environments, sculpting, assembling metals and arranging discarded material. She is interested in cast-out items and uses them not with the aim of transformation but rather reconsideration, paying attention to them and bringing out their hidden beauty. They are full of buried stories of production and life cycles. Her assemblages initially seem abandoned and awkward, but they assert themselves as she beautifies them, making them up to shine with a coat of color. For *Se faire plaisir*, Stéphanie Cherpin has taken the agave, a plant that grows in poor, dry lands, an invasive species in the forgotten spaces she wanders, and has transformed the fleshy leaves into seductive and enticing arms.

www.laforetdartcontemporain.com/2011/11/stephanie-cherpin



Afra Eisma, «Bloom passage» (détail), 2022 | Fil touffeté et support, 394 x 132 cm © photo : Gert Jan van Rooij

AFRA EISMA

*1993, lives and works in La Haye (NL)

Afra Eisma's tapestries are impressive in their size and brightness. Her often gigantic pieces are completely liberated from the classical formats of the genre, deploying figurative shapes that anchor narration at the heart of her work. A multitude of scenes unfold in each one, corresponding to as many ideas, reflections, and autobiographical experiences that the artist explores and inscribes in the thickness of the threads which are her medium. Profusion and confusion are matched by the richness of her emotions, which she lays out in color, humor, passion, and without restraint. Afra Eisma's art is full of attentions, giving itself without reservation to those who take the time to look at it. The artist gladly invites the visitors of *Se faire plaisir* to sit on the rugs - as long as they do so carefully - and immerse themselves in the stories that belong to their readers.

Afra Eisma is represented by No Man's Art Gallery
www.instagram.com/aframarciel



Camille Fischer, «Where have all the flowers gone», 2020 | Techniques mixtes peinture, encre et broderie sur tissu synthétique transparent, chemise © ADAGP et Galerie Maïa Muller

CAMILLE FISCHER

*1984, lives and works in Strasbourg (FR)

Camille Fischer's work should be approached through immersion, diving into its depth, whether in two dimensions or three. What she offers cannot be categorized as either painting or installation but unfolds at the junction of the two. To complicate definitions further, she also flirts with performance art. But whether they are canvases, paper, pedestal, or clothing, all her media allow her to assemble and unfold the range of a collection of drawings or sometimes accessories that make up compositions saturated with repeating and intertwining motifs. Through this grasp on space, the artist creates an atmosphere powerful enough to provoke intoxicating sensations. For *Se faire plaisir*, Camille Fischer employs a floral motif to create a formal dialogue that shares the same light as the works of other artists.

Camille Fischer is represented by Galerie Maïa Muller.

www.maïamuller.com/camille-fischer/oeuvres



Marianne Marić, «La Louisiane», Paris, 2024 | Tirage numérique, 20 x 30 cm © Marianne Marić

MARIANNE MARIĆ

*1982, lives and works in Strasbourg (FR)

An unclassifiable artist working with multiple and unconventional expressions, she employs photography to set forth the originality of her gaze and the generosity of her friendships. Her images are populated by girls, neighbors, or friends, bold and free, all constructed or captured spontaneously. Sometimes they make way to other subjects, flowers or objects that exude the same type of pride. Looking eastward, to the east of France and Eastern Europe where she comes from, Marianne Marić's eye wanders through her own history, filled with the doubts and landmarks that she embodies with both traditional, absurd, and erotic objects. She immortalizes them on paper or accumulates them in sets that are as important to her as manufactured images. For *Se faire plaisir*, she has opened herself to both assembling and sharing all of these forms.

mariannemarić.com

CASSIDY TONER

*1992, lives and works in Basel (CH)

For Cassidy Toner, the idea defines the medium. Her pieces blend sculpture, painting, and photograph to explore with humor and even derision a world she holds together with small interventions. She revisits images that are familiar to us, often taken from cultural industries, especially animation which in turn references a more established art history. She enjoys moving from the popular to the institutional without getting lost in clichés. Using simple materials and small gestures, she spreads out her pieces for *Se faire plaisir*, little pewter bouquets applied to the walls like small jewels that embellish the surfaces, or the body, of the exhibition.

Cassidy Toner is represented by galerie Philipp Zollinger, Zürich.

cassidytoner.com



Cassidy Toner, «As a sweet apple turns red on a high branch, high on the highest branch and the apple pickers forgot- well, no they didn't forget- were not able to reach», 2022 | Etain, 18 x 8 x 2 cm © Cassidy Toner et Galerie Philipp Zollinger



Victor Alarcon, *Fiolle 4*, 2025 | h18 x 11 x 6 cm, porcelaine et émail © Victor Alarcon

FRAGRANCES OF THE EXHIBITION

In collaboration with perfumer Isabelle Prin du Lys from Maison de Parfum Serena Galini, the three curators of *Se faire plaisir* have created fragrances to use either on oneself or on the artworks. Each perfume acts as an olfactory messenger in a project that engages all the senses.

MIREILLE BLANC *Forêt Noire (Black Forest)*

Top notes: Tea, Gardenia
Heart notes: Jasmine, Tuberose, Ylang-Ylang
Base notes: Osmanthus, Leather, Amber honey, Green vanilla

MARIANNE MARIĆ *Femme Fontaine (Woman Fountain)*

Perfume 1
Top notes: Rose, Peony
Heart notes: May rose, Damask rose, Benzoin, Patchouli
Base notes: Guaiac, Ambregris

Perfume 2
Top notes: Caviar lime, Lavander
Heart notes: Oakmoss, Haitian vetiver
Base notes: Tonka bean, Ambrette

SANDRINE WYMAN *Enjoleuse (Charmer)*

Top notes: Cypress, Pennyroyal
Heart notes: Black vetiver, Tiaré, Oud, Sandalwood, Coffe, Cocoa
Base notes: Labdanum, Benzoin, Ambregris

This choice of eaux de parfum highlights rare, precious, and extraordinary ingredients sourced from all around the world to compose shamanic essences that reawaken ancestral memory and channel the power of the elements.

La Kunsthalle Mulhouse is labeled “Center for Contemporary Art of National Interest” and a City of Mulhouse cultural establishment.

It is located in la Fonderie, a building it shares with the University of Haute-Alsace, and organises exhibitions and other events based on artistic creation and research.

Every year La Kunsthalle takes on a visiting exhibition curator, as well as a number of guest artists participating in exchange or research programmes. Thanks to its commitment and wide selection of events, La Kunsthalle is able to build close relationships with other art centres in the local area, across the Swiss and German borders, and further afield.

Within 500m² of gallery space La Kunsthalle both displays and produces temporary exhibitions dedicated to contemporary art. These exhibitions focus either on the work of one artist, or on a theme appearing in various artists' work.

La Kunsthalle promotes artistic creation and makes it easily accessible through its numerous events. La Kunsthalle participates regularly in highlights of the cultural season, such as the Regionale, a local cross-border event. It also asks graduates of Hear, Haute école des arts du Rhin, to participate in one of its projects.

La Kunsthalle offers its facilities to visiting artists and exhibition curators, confirming its role as a setting for both creation and appreciation of art.

LA KUNSTHALLE MULHOUSE

La Fonderie, 2nd floor, entrance by the forecourt
www.kunsthalle-mulhouse.com
 +33 (0)3 69 77 66 47

OPENING HOURS

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday → 12:00 – 18:00
 Saturday, Sunday → 14:00 – 18:00
 Closed on Monday & Tuesday + April 18, 19, 20
 Free entrance

ACCES

Train	Gare – Suivre le canal du Rhône au Rhin (Quai d'Isly) jusqu'au pont de la Fonderie puis rue de la Fonderie (15 min à pied / 5 min à vélo).
Tram	Lignes 2 et 3 arrêt « Tour Nessel »
Bus	Ligne C5 arrêt « Fonderie » Ligne 51 arrêts « Molkenrain » ou « Porte du Miroir » [sauf le dimanche]
Voiture	Autoroute A35 et A36, sortie Mulhouse centre, direction Gare puis Université – Fonderie ou Clinique Diaconat Fonderie. Parkings relais + tram

CONTACT PRESSE

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 03 69 77 65 56

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La Kunsthalle Mulhouse is labeled «Center for Contemporary Art of National Interest» and a City of Mulhouse cultural establishment. With the support from the Regional Cultural Affairs Office of Grand Est - French Ministry of Culture, Région Grand Est and Collectivité européenne d'Alsace. La Kunsthalle Mulhouse is member of d.c.a / association française de développement des centres d'art, Arts en résidence – Réseau national and Plan d'Est - Pôle arts visuels Grand Est.

