

TRACES



**Centre
Pompidou**

DU SACRÉ

**PRESS RELEASE
TRACES DU SACRÉ**

7 MAY – 11 AUGUST 2008

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With "Traces du Sacré," already promising to be one of the major artistic events of the year, the Centre Pompidou returns to the tradition of major multidisciplinary exhibitions that made its reputation, offering a visual exploration of one of the most pressing issues of our time. Following what has come to be called "the disenchantment of the world," a significant strain of modern art has found its roots in the turmoil attendant upon the loss of conventional religious belief, a terrain that continues to nourish the development of contemporary forms. Taking in the whole history of twentieth-century art, from Caspar David Friedrich to Kandinsky, from Malevich to Picasso, and from Barnett Newman to Bill Viola, the exhibition looks at the way in which art continues to testify, in often unexpected ways, to the existence of a universe beyond, remaining, in a thoroughly secularised world, the profane vehicle of an ineluctable need to rise above the quotidian.

This broad selection of paintings, sculptures, installations and videos brings together some 350 major works – many of them never seen before in France – by almost 200 artists of international renown.

The distinctively multidisciplinary character of the exhibition will be reflected in the Centre's regular ancillary events, with a programme of film, video and live performance, a lecture series and a literary colloquium expanding on the theme.

The exhibition is accompanied by a book and a catalogue, both published by Éditions du Centre Pompidou.

After Paris, the exhibition will travel to the Haus der Kunst in Munich (Germany), 19 September 2008 – 11 January 2009.

THE CONTEXT OF THE EXHIBITION

A distinctive feature of the human species, art makes its appearance in prehistory in close connection with our fundamental concern with the questions of what we are, where we come from, and where we are going.

This link between artistic creation and spiritual uncertainty has been manifest in all the great religions. Since the eighteenth century, however, the West has seen a profound transformation in the relationship between art and religion. The Reformation, the rise of capitalism, the ideals of the Enlightenment, the worship of Reason and the growth of the town all led to what Max Weber called "the disenchantment of the world."

At the same time, the sense of the withdrawal of the divine that found expression in the Romantics, followed later by Nietzsche's announcement of the death of God, the advance of science, the emergence of psychoanalysis and the growing influence of Marxism, led to a reconsideration of Man's place in creation and thus of his relationship to the religious.

It was in this landscape of belief violently unsettled that Modern art came to birth.

If in the course of this long process the secularisation of society delivered artists from their subordination to the Church, the crisis of religion did not at all mean the disappearance of metaphysical questioning. The argument of this exhibition is that a significant strain of modern art has its roots in such concerns.

The goal of the exhibition is thus to explore the significance of the survival of such questioning throughout the twentieth century, and to show that it continues to fuel the invention of contemporary artistic forms, and as such represents an essential key to the understanding of modern art.

In collaboration with the Centre Pompidou, the Centre Culturel Suédois presents the exhibition "Hilma af Klint, une modernité révélée," 11 April – 20 July 2008 (curators: Anna-Maria Svensson, Jean de Loisy and Angela Lampe).

Works by Hilma af Klint are also included in the exhibition "Traces du sacré."

Centre Culturel Suédois, 11 rue Payenne, 75003 Paris.

Hours: Tuesday to Sunday, midday to 6 pm. Admission free.

Press contact: Gunilla Norén, gno@ccs.si.se, +33 (0) 1 44 78 80 15

ORGANISATION OF THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition is chronologically organised by thematic sections that successively examine the major aesthetic and spiritual preoccupations of the twentieth century. Each of these twenty themes is also echoed in a contemporary work, demonstrating the continuing actuality of these concerns.

Introduction

Francisco Goya, Bruce Nauman, Christian Boltanski, Mounir Fatmi

Traces of the Fugitive Gods

Caspar David Friedrich, Carl Gustav Carus, August Strindberg, Henry De Groux, Edvard Munch, Lucio Fontana, Gino De Dominicis, Damien Hirst

Nostalgia of the Infinite

Ferdinand Hodler, Odilon Redon, Giorgio De Chirico, Kasimir Malevich, Constantin Brancusi, Gina Pane, Pierre Huyghe

The Great Initiates

Akseli Gallen Kallela, Jean Delville, Charles Sellier, Paul Elie Ranson, Rudolf Steiner, Piet Mondrian, Marcel Duchamp, Hugo Ball, Aleister Crowley, Hilma af Klint, Usco, Gino De Dominicis

Beyond the Visible

Louis Darget, František Kupka, Marcel Duchamp, Theo Van Doesburg, Vassily Kandinsky, Alberto Giacometti, Rudolf Steiner, Paul Sérusier, Yvan Kliun, Jean Crotti, Anish Kapoor, Frank Scurti

Cosmic Revelations

Hilma af Klint, Augustin Lesage, André Bély, Johannes Itten, Gulya Pap, Sigmar Polke, Matt Mullican

Rising to the Future

Wenzel Hablik, Bruno Taut, Hans Scharoun, Kurt Schwitters, Constantin Brancusi, Lyonel Feininger, Robert Delaunay, Hermann Finsterlin, Wassili Luckhardt, Pablo Picasso, Pierre Huyghe, Corey McCorkle, Vyacheslav Akunov

Homo Novus

Jean Delville, André Bély, František Kupka, Paul Klee, Marc Chagall, Umberto Boccioni, Otto Dix, Alexej von Jawlensky, Adel Abdessemed

The Absolute

Piet Mondrian, Kasimir Malevich, Niele Toroni, Constantin Brancusi

Eden

Franz Marc, Vladimir Baranov-Rossiné, Erich Heckel, Jean Arp, Paul Klee

Sacred Dances

Auguste Rodin, Antoine Bourdelle, Léon Bakst, Adolphe de Meyer, Vaslav Nijinski, André Derain, Emil Nolde, Ernst Kirchner, Mary Wigman, Rudolf von Laban

Pagan Spiritualities

Pablo Picasso, Emil Nolde, Marcel Janco, Victor Brauner, Aby Warburg and André Breton, Jan Matulka, Cameron Jamie

Eros and Thanatos

André Masson, Pablo Picasso, Eli Lotar, Salvador Dalí, Man Ray, Pierre Molinier, Svai and Paul Stanikas

Offensive

George Grosz, Max Ernst, Francis Picabia, Salvador Dalí, Man Ray, Antonin Artaud, Thierry De Cordier, Andrés Serrano, Gérard Garouste, Mounir Fatmi

Apocalypses

Wilhelm Lehmbruck, Vassily Kandinsky, Max Beckmann, Otto Dix, Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau, Maurizio Cattelan, Bruno Perramant

Homo Homini Lupus

Georges Rouault, Christer Strömholm, Francis Bacon, Robert Smithson, Jerzy Grotowski, Bruce Nauman, Thierry De Cordier

Sacred Art

Maurice Denis, Georges Rouault, Fernand Léger, Henri Matisse, Le Corbusier, Germaine Richier, Jean Lurçat, Jacques Lipchitz, Joseph Beuys

Although it is Night

Alfred Manessier, Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman, Arnulf Rainer, Bill Viola, Emmanuel Saulnier, Pierre Buraglio, Jannis Kounellis, Jean-Michel Alberola, Yazid Oulab, Kris Martin, Eli Petel

Resonances of the Archaic

Roberto Matta, André Masson, Wifredo Lam, Lee Mullican, Wolfgang Paalen, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman, Robert Smithson, Étienne-Martin, Joseph Beuys, Tobias Collier

Doors of Perception

Henri Michaux, Allen Ginsberg, Brion Gysin, Wallace Berman, Bruce Conner, Jay DeFeo, John Giorno, William Burroughs, Jean-Jacques Lebel, Aldous Huxley, Robert Whitaker, Rick Griffin/Kenneth Anger, Cameron, Aleister Crowley, Harry Smith and Frieda Harris, Isaac Abrams, Jud Yalkut and Nam June Paik, Frederick Pardo, Peter Sedgley, Paul Thek, Patrick O'Neill, Usco, Harry Smith, Joshua White

Sacrifice

Herman Nitsch, Marina Abramovic, Michel Journiac, Rebecca Horn, Yazid Oulab, Christoph Schlingensief

Oriental Wisdoms

Jean Degottex, Yves Klein, Ad Reinhardt, Nam June Paik, Robert Filliou, John Cage, On Kawara, James Lee Byars, Marc Couturier, Charwei Tsai

The Shadow of God

Andy Warhol, Moshe Ninio, Paul Chan

Close

Jonathan Monk, Jean-Michel Alberola

ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING:

Forum, Level -1: Huang Yong Ping

Level 6: Valère Novarina and Jacques Lizène

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY ACCOMPANIMENT

“Traces du sacré” is a crosscutting, multidisciplinary exhibition that brings different arts together around the same theme, mobilising every aspect of the Centre’s programme.
(Some details below subject to confirmation)

MUSIC – IRCAM CONCERTS

MOT(ET)S CACHÉS

Works by Brian Ferneyhough and Thomas Tallis
Exaudi Vocal Ensemble
Digital music production by Ircam
8.30 pm, 5 May, Centre Pompidou

LE SEUIL DU VERBE

Works by Jonathan Harvey, Gérard Grisey and Elliott Carter – Susan Narucki, soprano
Lani Poulson, mezzo-soprano. Marc Coppey, cello
Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, conductor Pascal Rophé, digital music production by Ircam
8 pm, 5 June, Salle des Concerts, Cité de la Musique. Part of the Agora Festival 2008.

FRANCHIR : GRISEY, MARESZ, ROBIN

A work by Grisey, first performances of works by Yan Maresz (commissioned by F. and J-P. Billarant) and Yann Robin (Cursus II)
Ensemble Intercontemporain, Barbara Hannigan, soprano, conductor Susanna Mälkki, digital music production by Ircam
9 pm, 7 June, Centre Pompidou. Part of the Agora Festival 2008

Ircam press representation: Opus 64 / Valérie Samuel, Arnaud Pain and Amélie de Pange
01 40 26 77 94 – a.pain@opus64.com

REVUES PARLÉES / FORUMS DE SOCIÉTÉ

“Traces du sacré.” How is this notion of “traces of the sacred” to be understood? Infinitesimal quantities detectable only by analysis? The prints that detectives are so keen on? Signs of a future return, putting an end to “the disenchantment of the world,” to “this process of dissolution and reversal of the immemorial dominance of the religious”?

MARCEL GAUCHET

L’art, le sacré, l’inquiétude.

7.30 pm, Thursday 24 April, Petite salle

RENÉ GIRARD

Le sens de l’histoire

Screening of an interview with René Girard by Benoît Chantre (Centre Pompidou production, 2008, 90 mins)
8 pm, Wednesday 7 May, Cinéma 1

JEAN-CLAUDE SCHMITT

Mots et figures du sacré

7.30 pm, Thursday 15 May, Petite salle

MAURICE GODELIER

Est sacré, ce que l'on ne peut ni vendre ni donner

7.30 pm, Thursday 22 May, Petite salle

MARIE-JOSÉ MONDZAIN

Carnaval et blasphème

7.30, Wednesday 28 May, Petite salle

FRANCK HAMMOUTÈNE

Architecture et sacré

7.30 pm, Thursday 29 May, Petite salle

BARBARA CASSIN

Impressions païennes

7.30 pm, Thursday 5 June, Petite salle

GÉRARD MORDILLAT AND JÉRÔME PRIEUR

Résurrection

Screening and discussion

7.30 pm, Thursday 19 June, Petite salle

Screening of *Résurrection*, episode 9 of the documentary series *Corpus Christi* (12 episodes of 52 mins), conceived and directed by Gérard Mordillat and Jérôme Prieur, followed by a discussion with the filmmakers

HANS-ULRICH OBRIST

Carte blanche

5 pm, Saturday 5 July, Petite salle

UN DIMANCHE, UNE ŒUVRE

An artist, curator, writer, art historian or critic takes a personal look at a piece in the collection of the Musée National d'Art Moderne. This is regularly a musical work by one of the composers associated with the Ircam, analysed by a musician or musicologist.

MARK ROTHKO Untitled (*Black, Red over Black on Red*), 1964

11.30 am, Sunday 18 May, Petite salle

With Eric de Chasse, professor of the history of contemporary art at the Université François Rabelais, Tours.

SPECTACLES VIVANTS

D'après J.C. by choreographer HERMAN DIEPHUIS

8.30 pm, Tuesday 14, Thursday 15 and Saturday 16 May, Grande salle, Level -1

Inspired by Renaissance paintings depicting the Virgin Mary and her Son, the Dutch choreographer Herman Diephuis offers a graceful yet humorous look at the language of the body. "A catalogue of images that brings out the sensuality in these religious representations, questioning the boundary between masculine and feminine while at the same time documenting a mother's indissoluble love for her son." R.B.

VIDÉODANSE 2008

2 – 28 April 2008

Foyer, Level -1

Free admission

Vidéodanse 2008 highlights the reciprocal influence between dance and the visual arts. To accompany the exhibition “Traces du sacré,” the series will present the work of choreographers who admiringly, critically, ironically, sometimes nostalgically, followed Vaslav Nijinski and Mary Wigman in exploring the sacred, in their cultural or aesthetic references, in their themes and motifs, and also in their working processes, an exploration equally evident in the works of many contemporary choreographers. As if indeed dance were naturally a form concerned with questions of ritual, spirituality, ecstasy and worship. Alongside some 150 dance films, the programme also features artist’s videos and documentaries about artists drawn from the Centre’s own collection.

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE AND THE SACRED

Literary Colloquium / Bibliothèque publique d’information

2.30 – 7.30 pm, 17 May 2008, Grande salle.

What is the place of metaphysical interrogation today? Is it a constitutive aspect of writing? How does it manifest itself? In what forms? And how are we today to understand the word “sacred”? With Roberto Calasso, Valère Novarina, Sylvie Germain, Marie Darrieussecq, Yannick Haenel, Pascal Quignard, Frédéric Boyer, Philippe Sollers and others.

CINEMA

A programme of comic shorts, experimental works and full-length fiction films offers a historical survey of the profane survival of figures and narratives of the sacred in the cinema.

28 May – 30 June, Cinemas 1 and 2

Among the films:

Robert Breer, Pontus Hultén / Un miracle / 1954 / 1’

Luis Buñuel / L’Âge d’or / 1930 / 63’

Dieter Appelt / 24 images de la vie à la mort / 1981 / 5’

Abel Ferrara / Bad Lieutenant / 1993 / 96’

Ralph Steiner / Pie in the Sky / 1935 / 22’

Pier Paolo Pasolini / Accatone / 1961 / 120’

Martin Scorsese / Taxi Driver / 1976 / 113’

...

Press officer : La Grande Ourse Communication / Manon Ouellette

01 40 47 99 89 – manon@ouellette.com

PUBLICATIONS

CATALOGUE

Éditions du Centre Pompidou

Edited by Mark Alizart

Format 23.5 x 30 cm, 440 pp, 326 col. ills

Graphic design: Élie Kongs

Price: 49.90 euros

The Traces du sacré catalogue is a scholarly work of reference, designed as an encyclopaedia of the relationship between spirituality and the arts in the twentieth century, with some hundred articles on ideas, artists, works and movements connected with the theme of the exhibition (the idea of Paradise, the role of Fr. Couturier, the work of Rothko, Zen, the Beat Generation, etc.) A discussion of the exhibition by the curators explains the relationship between works and topics. Three longer essays deal with the intellectual, historical and sociological background to the three great periods identified by the exhibition. The first considers the ideas that dominate the end of the late nineteenth century, surviving until the 1930s: Romanticism, the death of God, the Superman (Olivier Schefer). The second considers the intellectual atmosphere following the Second World War: the sense of the end of history, the decline of Europe and the endeavour to develop spiritualities without God (Yves Cusset). The third examines the contemporary world in which the exhibition intervenes: the return of religion, or rather, the decline of irreligion (Mark Alizart).

The catalogue also offers an opportunity to familiarize oneself with the work of a new generation of French art historians, from whom are drawn the majority of the contributors.

VISITATIONS

Published alongside the catalogue will be a collection of essays written in response to the exhibition by intellectuals and scholars from a wide range of disciplines. A philosopher, an art historian, an anthropologist, a critic of contemporary art a psychoanalyst, an artist and two historians of religion offer their own readings of the works and the way in which they illuminate or complicate the notion of the sacred.

Format: 16 x 16.50 cm, approx. 140 pp

Price: around 20 euros

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Foreword by Alain Seban

Preface by Alfred Paquement

Jean de Loisy: "Face à ce qui se dérobe: "

Angela Lampe: "Traces du sacré dans l'espace d'exposition: "

Olivier Schefer: "Religion, mythe et modernité".

Yves Cusset: "L'absurde et le sublime".

CATALOGUE

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Julie Ramos: "Caspar David Friedrich"

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Valérie Da Costa: "Lucio Fontana"

Alessandra Sandrolini: "Gino De Dominicis"

NOSTALGIE DE L'INFINI

Introduction by Angela Lampe

Alain Bonfand « De Chirico, *Il Grande Metafisico* »

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Laura Gutman-Hanhivaara « Gallen-Kallela, *Ad Astra* »

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Maria Stavrinaki « Socialismes mystiques »

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HOMO NOVUS

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Sophie Dannenmüller « Cameron »
Gallien Déjean « Kenneth Anger »
Franck Leibovici « Michaux et la mescaline »
Philippe-Alain Michaud « Police Activity [*Bad Lieutenant*] »
Christoph Grunenberg « Aldous Huxley »
Christoph Grunenberg « Psychédéisme »
Christoph Grunenberg « Timothy Leary »

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ÉPILOGUE

Mark Alizart « Traces du sacrilège »

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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Opening

Exhibition open

11 am – 9 pm

every day ex. Tuesdays

Admission

€10 or €12,

depending on time of visit

concessions €8 or €9

ticket valid one day for the

Musée National d'Art Moderne

and all exhibitions

Free for members of the Centre

Pompidou (holders of the annual

pass)

Information on

01 44 78 14 63

Buy your ticket on-line and print

at home:

www.centrepompidou.fr

AT THE SAME TIME AT THE CENTRE

LES INQUIETS –

5 ARTISTES

SOUS LA PRESSION

DE LA GUERRE

13 FEBRUARY – 19 MAY 2008

Press officer

Dorothee Mireux

01 44 78 46 60

L'OEIL SUR L'ÉCHELLE

ÉDOUARD SAUTAI

20 FEBRUARY – 30 JUNE 2008

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Quentin Farella

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POL ABRAHAM

5 MARCH – 2 JUNE 2008

Press officer

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LOUISE BOURGEOIS

5 MARCH – 2 JUNE 2008

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Dorothee Mireux

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DOMINIQUE PERRAULT

ARCHITECTURE

11 JUNE – 22 SEPTEMBER 2008

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PRIX MARCEL DUCHAMP

TATIANA TROUVÉ

25 JUNE – 29 SEPTEMBER 2008

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