

22 July 2009



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PRESS RELEASE

SOULAGES

14 OCTOBER 2009 – 8 MARCH 2010


GALERIE 1 – LEVEL 6

With this major retrospective, the Centre Pompidou celebrates the work of Pierre Soulages, indisputably the greatest living French painter. Soon to be ninety, Soulages, the “painter of black and light,” is recognized as one of the major abstract artists of the post-War period.

The Centre Pompidou staged its first major exhibition of Soulages's work in 1979, which followed another held at the Musée National d'Art Moderne in 1967, before the Centre opened. Looking back over more than 60 years of activity, this autumn's exhibition will offer a new reading of the artist's work, with an emphasis on recent developments in his painting. It will bring together more than a hundred major pieces produced between 1946 and the present, from the tremendous walnut-stain works of 1947-1949 to the paintings of the recent years – many of the latter here exhibited for the first time – testimony to the dynamism and diversity of a body of work characterised by ceaseless development.

**The exhibition is supported by Nespresso
and the PricewaterhouseCoopers France Foundation**

NESPRESSO

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France



The opening section of the exhibition will focus on the first, foundational period of Soulages's work, with a substantial group of works on paper and tar on glass works, followed by a representative selection of paintings from 1950 to 1970, the best-known period of the artist's career.

In 1979, Pierre Soulages, who had already been painting for three decades, embarked on a new phase with works he called *Outrenoir* [Ultra-Black], based on the light reflected from a surface entirely covered in black. Using only the latter and working on the relation between black and light, Soulages constructed a pictorial space that – despite his reliance on one single colour – stands opposed to the monochrome in the development of modern art. The exhibition will thoroughly explore this “other painting” in all its diversity.

In the concluding section, the recent large multi-panelled paintings will be displayed hanging freely within the exhibition space.

To accompany this major retrospective a substantial catalogue is to be published by Éditions du Centre Pompidou, who in January 2010 will also organise (in collaboration with the Université François-Rabelais, Tours, and the INHA) a colloquium under the direction of Éric de Chassey.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Centre Pompidou

75191 Paris cedex 04

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métro

Hôtel de Ville, Rambuteau

Opening

11 am – 9 pm

every day ex. Tuesdays

Admission

€10 – €12, depending on time,

Concessions

€8 – €9

ticket valid the same day for the

Musée National d'Art Moderne and all exhibitions

Free for under-18s and members of the Centre Pompidou

(holders of the annual pass)

Buy on-line and print at home:

www.centrepompidou.fr

AT THE SAME TIME AT THE CENTRE

elles@centrepompidou

FROM 27 MAY 2009

Press officer

Anne-Marie Pereira

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LA SUBVERSION DES IMAGES SURREALISME, PHOTOGRAPHIE, FILM

24 SEPTEMBER 2009 –

11 JANUARY 2010

Press officer

Céline Janvier

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FROM 24 OCTOBER 2009

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JIM HODGES

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Press officer

Sébastien Gravier

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FROM 14 OCTOBER 2009

Press officer

Dorothee Mireux

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THE CENTRE POMPIDOU'S NEW FESTIVAL

21 OCTOBER –

23 NOVEMBER 2009

MANAGEMENT

curators

Alfred Pacquement

director,

Musée National d'Art Moderne /
Centre de Création Industrielle.

Pierre Encrevé

director of studies in linguistics
at the EHESS, biographer
of Soulages and author of the
artist's catalogue raisonné.

exhibition design

Nathalie Crinière

Katia Samari