



**Centre
Pompidou**



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Jacques Villeglé

Rues Desprez et Vercingétorix

La Femme, 1966

Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Allemagne

© Adagp, Paris 2008

JACQUES VILLEGLÉ

LA COMÉDIE URBAINE

17 SEPTEMBER 08 – 5 JANUARY 09

GALERIE 2, LEVEL 6

The Centre Pompidou is to present the first major French retrospective of the work of Jacques Villeglé, an artist who since 1949 has succeeded – using one single material, the torn poster – in producing a very substantial body of work of astonishing formal richness.

Bringing together some hundred works dating from the 1940s to the present, the exhibition adopts a thematic approach to the artist's work, from the typographical explosions and coloured abstract compositions of the beginnings to the recent rhythmical juxtapositions derived from concert posters.

Villeglé is not a creator of readymades, even if he does nothing (except lend the occasional “helping hand”) to the posters he finds in the streets and then mounts on canvas. He sees himself rather as a flâneur, and his work is to reveal among the urban chaos the beauties hidden in the layered paper torn and sometimes written on or otherwise marked by anonymous hands.

www.centrepompidou.fr

Villeglé's work offers a seismographic record of our shared reality as it finds expression in the urban space whose history it returns to us in the distinctive history of its walls. It reveals how much our way of seeing is conditioned by this everyday visual environment, reactivating our memory to critical yet at the same time playful ends.

Combining elements of the practice of such now "historic" movements as the New Realists, the Lettrists and the Situationist International, Villeglé's work, rooted in the contemporary, is held in high regard by many of the younger artists of today.

Another important thread in the artist's work is his "socio-political alphabet," used in a whole series of works (on posters, canvases, school writing slates etc.) and derived from the modified lettering often found in graffiti (e.g. the encircled A of the anarchists). These works are shown in a parallel display.

The exhibition also includes Villeglé's work in experimental film, which incidentally offers parallels in sound to his own work, the soundtrack to *Étude aux allures* (1950-54) being a work of concrete music by Pierre Schaeffer, that to *Un Mythe dans la ville* (1974-2002) a piece by the poet Bernard Heidsieck. This interest in music can be seen too in a recent series of posters on the theme of amplified music, produced in collaboration with the Atelier d'Aquitaine (an informal workshop set up in 1997 to promote the gathering of posters in different regions of France), and again in the juxtaposition of Villeglé's work with music by composers such as Pierre Henry, with whom he has collaborated on three occasions, and who, for this exhibition, offers a first performance of a new work.

A catalogue edited by Sophie Duplaix is to be published by Éditions du Centre Pompidou, with essays by Laurence Bertrand Dorléac, Catherine Francblin, Fanny Schulmann, Arnaud Labelle-Rojoux, Roxane Jubert and others.

AROUND THE EXHIBITION

7 PM, WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

CENTRE POMPIDOU – CINÉMA 2

Admission: €6, concessions and annual pass holders, α4

FILMS BY JACQUES VILLEGLÉ, DISCUSSED BY THE ARTIST

Paris Saint-Brieuc, 1950-1952 / 2'50" / 16 mm / colour / sil.

Un Mythe dans la ville, 1974-2002 / 29'30" / 16mm / colour / sound

Étude aux allures (Jacques Villeglé and Raymond Hains), 1950-1954 / 4'29" / 16mm / colour / sound

Paris Saint-Brieuc uses the techniques of "direct" filmmaking: Indian ink and paint on film off-cuts, crazing, scratching etc.

Études aux allures is a sound version (with music by Pierre Schaeffer) of *Pénélope*, an abstract film made together with Raymond Hains in the early 1950s.

Un Mythe dans la ville, begun in 1974, could only finally be shown in 2002. In it Villeglé cuts shots of Paris, torn posters from the series "Le Retour de l'Hourloupe" (featuring Dubuffet's character) and motifs from his own socio-political alphabet into various animated sequences.

The soundtrack is *Couper n'est pas jouer: biopsie n°10* by the poet Bernard Heidsieck, a collage of debates in the French National Assembly, the events of May 1968, and fragments of narrative.

7.30 PM, WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER: FORUM DE SOCIÉTÉ

CENTRE POMPIDOU – PETITE SALLE

Free admission subject to availability

JACQUES VILLEGLÉ: LA PRODUCTION D'UN FLÂNEUR

Interview with Jacques Villeglé by Sophie Duplaix

On the occasion of his first Paris retrospective, Jacques Villeglé looks back over almost sixty years of production as a flâneur and connoisseur of the torn poster. From his attempt to develop a formal and thematic classification of his more than 4,000 works to the need to introduce geographical criteria, from the 1990s onward, Villeglé has endlessly interrogated his own practice.

The establishment, in the Aquitaine region, of a travelling workshop, and the development, from 1969 onwards, of his "socio-political alphabet," derived from graffiti found on walls, offer new keys to reading the work of this "encyclopaedic" artist too often identified with the movements he took part in, when these represent no more than episodes in an entire life devoted to our "collective reality."

8 PM, WEDNESDAY 1 AND THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER: CONCERT

CENTRE POMPIDOU – GRANDE SALLE

duration approx. 1 h. 10 mins / admission €14 / concessions and annual pass holders €10

tickets available online at www.centrepompidou.fr/billetterie

DAVID COLL AND PIERRE HENRY: 68 / *Un monde lacéré*

An IRCAM / Les Spectacles vivants - Centre Pompidou co-production

Sixty years of age separate Pierre Henry and the young American composer David Coll, a student on the Ircam Cursus programme. This evening's performance offers two new works inspired by the work of Jacques Villeglé: an echo in sound of the found objects, torn posters, texts and images of the "urban comedy."

In his *68*, David Coll refers to the works of Maurice Lemaître and Jacques Villeglé and to the records of an event that he himself did not experience but whose myth retains great power.

Pierre Henry presents *Un monde lacéré*, a piece that embodies an urban imaginary, specially composed as a tribute to the work of Jacques Villeglé. The composer here takes the opportunity to continue an artistic collaboration begun in Poitiers in 1999, with the exhibition "Le Grand Mix," and renewed at the Nuit Blanche of 2006.

David Coll *68*, world première (20')

for baritone, percussion, cello and electronics

baritone: Lionel Peintre / cello: Séverine Ballon / percussion: Daniel Ciampolini / IRCAM digital music

production: David Coll / educational materials: Emmanuel Jourdan

Pierre Henry *Un monde lacéré*, world première (50')

sound director: Pierre Henry / sound engineer: Etienne Bultingaire / musical assistant:

Bernadette Mangin / PA: Studio Son/Ré / production manager: Isabelle Warnier

Son / Ré is supported by DRAC Île de France – Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, by the City of Paris and by the SACEM.

6.30 PM, THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER: TALK

LES ARTS DÉCORATIFS – 111, RUE DE RIVOLI, PARIS 1 – SALLE DE CONFÉRENCES

Admission: €5 – €4 – €2

"UN MYTHE DANS LA VILLE": JACQUES VILLEGLÉ ET L'ŒUVRE DE JEAN DUBUFFET

The Musée des Arts Décoratifs organises two events annually in partnership with the Société des Amis de la Fondation Dubuffet. As part of this programme, Jacques Villeglé has been invited to attend a screening of his experimental short *Un Mythe dans la ville* (1974–2002), with soundtrack by Bernard Heidsieck, and to discuss it afterwards with Sophie Duplaix. The film is a tribute to Jean Dubuffet, one of the key images being a poster by Dubuffet that prompted a ten-year correspondence between the two artists.

conference@lesartsdecoratifs.fr (reservation desirable)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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Hôtel de Ville, Rambuteau

Opening

Exhibition open

11 am – 9 pm

every day ex. Tuesdays

Admission

€10 or €12, depending on time

concessions €8 or €9

ticket valid one 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)

Information

01 44 78 14 63

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and print at home:

[www.centrepompidou.fr/](http://www.centrepompidou.fr/billetterie)

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Catalogue

Éditions du Centre Pompidou

format: 22 x 28 cm

approx. 350 colour pages

sewn p/b with flaps

€49.90

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