

**DIRECTION DE LA COMMUNICATION  
ET DES PARTENARIATS**

**PRESS PACK**



# **TOTEM ET TATTOO**

**OUR ANCESTORS THE MODERNS,**

**AN EXHIBITION TOLD AS A STORY FOR CHILDREN AGED 6 TO 12**

**12 APRIL - 22 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**TOTEM  
ET TATTOO**

**Centre  
Pompidou**

# TOTEM ET TATTOO

## OUR ANCESTORS THE MODERNS, AN EXHIBITION TOLD AS A STORY FOR CHILDREN AGED 6 TO 12

### 12 APRIL – 22 SEPTEMBER 2014

GALERIE DES ENFANTS, LEVEL 1

18 march 2014



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## COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

### TOTEM ET TATTOO

**OUR ANCESTORS THE MODERNS,  
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GALERIE DES ENFANTS, LEVEL 1

Since inviting Alain Bubleux in 2009, the Galerie des Enfants at the Centre Pompidou has been regularly calling on players in the contemporary art scene to devise imaginative ways of introducing children aged 6 to 12 to their worlds and creative processes. After Valérie Mréjen in 2012 and Navid Nuur in 2013, Olivier Vadrot is inviting children to stroll around a village of tepees exploring works from the Centre Pompidou collection, between 12 April and 22 September 2014.

«Totem et Tattoo» invites children to look at and really examine a work through a tale that acts as a guiding theme. This exhibition in the form of a story explores the relationship between modern and ethnic art in a setting of tents, which echo the colours of a work by Alexander Calder\*.

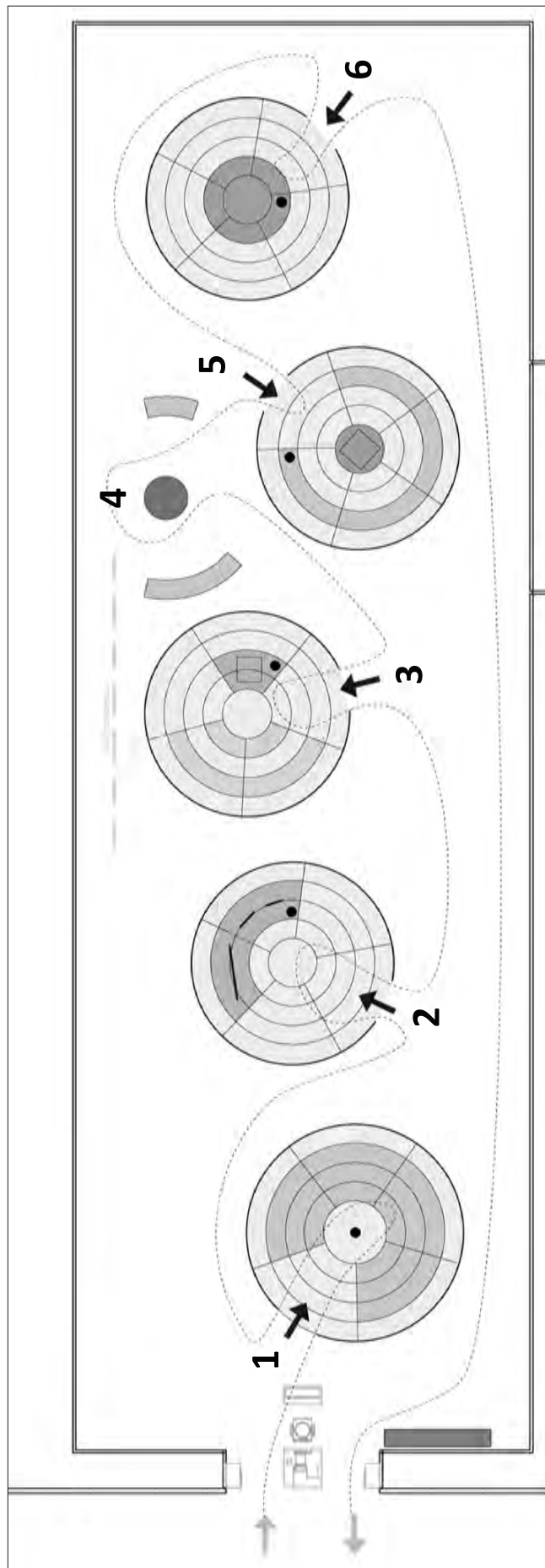
Ethnic art works fascinated and influenced European avant-garde artists in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Centre Pompidou collection contains a large number of these ritual and domestic objects, often collected by artists like Guillaume Apollinaire, André Breton, André Derain and Michel Leiris. They found a spontaneity and intensity in these works that reflected their need to question the principles of representation.

The exhibition circuit introduces children to sculptures and drawings by Victor Brauner, Alexander Calder, Max Ernst, Man Ray and Joan Miró, which they discover by torchlight in the dimly-lit tents through an approach that challenges conventional thinking, and repositions these images in the light of the ethnic art works that inspired them.

The circuit is based on a story by Pierre Senges, set to music by Sébastien Roux: the tale of the Indian Pupyopac tribe, whose chief becomes infatuated with modern art and sets off to seek out some of these works in a new genre. The totem, central to the story, is often linked with the representation of animals, like Miró's "Woman-Bird" and Max Ernst's "Big Frog". This eccentric adventure is full of facts and historical details, making the artists and their works real characters in the tale.

\* «Tapis de ficelle» («Star»), 1975, now in the collection, made by Guatemalan artists after a drawing by Calder.

## 2. PLAN OF THE EXHIBITION



1

**Welcome**

### WORKS EXHIBITED

2

**Alexander Calder**

*Three Figures*, 1963

Gouache on paper

75 x 108 cm

79.1 x 114.4 cm (with frame)

*Two Figures* (1965)

Ink on paper

59.7 x 41.5 cm

*Moon and Signs* [1965]

Ink on paper

37.5 x 27 cm

3

**Victor Brauner**

*Signe (Sign)*, 1942-1945

Gilt bronze, black marble base

35.5 x 22.7 x 13.5 cm

4

**Max Ernst**

*Grande grenouille (Big Frog)*,

1967/1974

Bronze

128 x 78 x 78 cm

Collaborator: Susse

Foundry, Arcueil (France), 1974

5

**Man Ray**

*Fisherman's idol* (1927)

Bronze

41 x 11.8 x 12.2 cm

6

**Joan Miró**

*Femme-oiseau (Woman-Bird)*, 1974

Bronze

78 x 111 x 64 cm

Collaborator: R. Scuderi Foundry

### 3. AROUND THE EXHIBITION



Olivier Vadrot © Laurent Montaron

Olivier Vadrot's works all have one point in common: an almost architectural scale, which questions the methods of reproducing and distributing today's art, whether this comes in visual form, as sound compositions or as texts. This is the case with *Kiosque électronique* (2004), a contemporary, mobile version of the music kiosk which disseminates concerts through headphones (presented during the Centre Pompidou's Nouveau Festival in 2009); the miniature theatre of *Précisions sur les vagues* (with Sébastien Roux and Célia Houdart) for the Avignon Festival in 2008, and more recently *Circo Minimo*, a collapsible circular amphitheatre designed for public readings in the gardens of the Villa Medici in Rome. Olivier Vadrot was born in Semur-en-Auxois in 1970, and lives in the Beaune region in Burgundy. He is a graduate of the Lyon École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture. In the early 2000s, he participated in the creation of La Salle de Bains contemporary art centre in Lyon, and was involved in its programme. A member of the Cocktail Designers collective from 2004 to 2012, he frequently collaborated with Sébastien Roux and Célia Houdart on electroacoustic projects in situ, where viewers experience an intimate, often completely new listening situation.



Pierre Senges © Philippe Bretelle

Pierre Senges, born in 1968, is the author of several novels and stories published by Verticales, including *Veuves au maquillage* (2000, Prix Rhône-Alpes), *Ruines-de-Rome* (2002, Second Novel prize), *La Réfutation majeure* (2004, Folio Gallimard 2006), *Fragments de Lichtenberg* (2008) and *Études de silhouettes* (2010). Some works were written in collaboration with illustrators, like *Géométrie dans la poussière* (with Killoffer, 2004) and *Les Carnets de Gordon McGuffin* (with Nicolas de Crécy, Futuropolis, 2009). *Environs et mesures*, an essay on the location of imaginary places, was published by Le Promeneur in 2011. Pierre Senges has also written numerous radiophonic fiction works for France Culture, France Musique and France Inter, including *Un immense fil d'une heure de temps* (Grand Prix SGDL for radiophonic fiction) and *Histoire de Bouvard et Pécuchet, copistes* (a free adaptation of the novel by Gustave Flaubert).

Some of these fictional works are for children, like *L'Affaire Dora Potassium*, produced by Marguerite Gateau, and *Le Ring*, after Richard Wagner, recorded in public in 2011 (with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France conducted by Alan Gilbert).



Sébastien Roux © DD Dorvillier

Sébastien Roux composes electronic music that can be heard in the form of records, listening sessions, installations and sound circuits of radiophonic works. His recent works place the concept of translation at the heart of his work. This principle consists of using a “repertory» piece (a painting, score or text) as a basis for a new piece. His first endeavour, *Quatuor* (2011, commissioned by the GRM) is an electroacoustic piece based on fragments of Beethoven’s 10<sup>th</sup> string quartet. The second, *Nouvelle* (2012, commissioned by the WDR) uses sound phrases from *La Légende de Saint Julien L’Hospitalier* by Gustave Flaubert. *Commentaires sur Sol Lewitt* is based on instructions given by the American artist for producing his Wall Drawings. This project was supported by the Institut Français “Hors-les-murs” residency. Sébastien Roux has performed and composed pieces with Séverine Ballon, Mathieu Bonilla, Greg Davis, Vincent Epplay, David Fenech, FRZ, Jürgen Heckel, Eddie Ladoire, Kim Myrh and Dragos Tara. He has produced the sound environment for choreographies by DD Dorvillier, Lionel Hoche and Sylvain Prunenec, and for two texts by Célia Houdart: *À demi endormi déjà* (a children’s show) and *Fréquences* (an iPhone application, in collaboration with André Baldinger, Martin Blum and Graziella Antonini). He has worked at IRCAM as musical assistant to Georges Aperghis (*Avis de Tempête*), Bruno Mantovani and Gérard Pesson. His work has been released on various labels: Brocoli, Apestaartje, 12k, Carpark, Room40, n-rec, Optical Sound, Tiramizu and Tsuku Boshi.

Story by Pierre Senges set to music by Sébastien Roux,  
with the voices of Hélène Babu and Thibault de Montalembert,  
Percussion: Maxime Echardour  
Title typography: Fanette Mellier  
Lighting: Yannick Fouassier

## 4. VISUALS FOR THE PRESS

© Fanette Mellier

TOTEM ET TATTOO



**Alexander Calder**

*Two Figures, 1965*

© Calder Foundation New York, Adagp, Paris 2014

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## 5. PRATICAL INFORMATIONS

### PRATICAL INFORMATIONS

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**Opening times**  
Exhibitions are open from 11.00 am to  
7.00 pm every day except Tuesdays

**Prices**  
€11 - €13, depending on the period  
reduced price: €9 - €10  
Valid the same day for the Musée national d'art moderne and all exhibitions  
Free admission for Centre Pompidou members (annual Pass holders)

Tickets can be printed at home:  
[www.centrepompidou.fr](http://www.centrepompidou.fr)

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**PICABIA, MAN RAY ET LA REVUE  
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**HOMMAGE À  
« MAGICIENS DE LA TERRE »**  
2 JULY – 8 SEPTEMBER 2014  
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**UNE HISTOIRE.  
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DE 1980 À NOS JOURS**  
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