



february 2019



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[#ExpolsidoreIsou](https://twitter.com/ExpolsidoreIsou)

[#SaisonFranceRoumanie](https://twitter.com/SaisonFranceRoumanie)

Traité de bave et d'éternité, 1951

Collection Centre Pompidou, Paris

Musée national d'art moderne Centre de création

industrielle © Adagp, Paris © Centre Pompidou,

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COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE **ISIDORE ISOU**

6 MARS – 20 MAI 2019

GALERIE DU MUSÉE, LEVEL 4

AS PART OF A ROMANIAN CYCLE AT THE CENTRE POMPIDOU

From 6 March to 20 May 2019, as part of its Roman season, the Centre Pompidou is presenting a major monographic exhibition devoted to Isidore Isou. An artist and theorist as well as a poet, painter, film-maker and playwright, Isidore Isou declared in 1950 that he had “a whole world to conquer.”

Built around the archives recently acquired by the Centre Pompidou, the exhibition presents the rich body of ground-breaking work produced by this unique artist through a collection of paintings, films, objects, drawings and publications.

"It is a Name and not a master that I want to be," wrote Isidore Isou in 1947. Having arrived in Paris in August of 1945 at the age of twenty, Isou was already making a name for himself. He met leading intellectual figures like André Breton, André Gide and Tristan Tzara, with and against whom he would establish himself as one of the last champions of the avant-garde. He founded Lettrism in 1946 with Gabriel Pomerand, proclaiming the birth of the movement by causing a scandal at the Théâtre du Vieux-Colombier.

With the support of Jean Cocteau and Jean Paulhan, Isou was published in *La Nouvelle Revue française* in 1947. His theoretical essay, *Introduction à une nouvelle poésie et à une nouvelle musique (Introduction to a New Poetry and a New Music)*, laid the groundwork for Lettrism: in the work, Isou described the phase of decomposition which poetry had entered starting with Baudelaire and declared the advent of the letter, the final stage of this process of purification. The letter, and more generally the sign, represented a possible foundation for a total renewal of the arts.

A compulsive writer who knew no limits, Isou wrote hundreds of works illustrating the extension of his thinking to other disciplines: fine arts, architecture, politics, economics, mathematics, medicine, psychology and erotology were studied in light of "kladology," a method of invention that can be applied to all branches of culture. In 1976, his research was compiled in an enormous theoretical work, *La Créatique ou la Novatique (Creatics)*.

Throughout his life, Isou surrounded himself with companions with whom he could test his ideas and he produced a considerable body of visual work. Some of them, such as Maurice Lemaître, would remain friends with Isou for a long time and play a crucial role in creating Lettrist works. Others, like Guy Debord, would have a more fleeting experience with Lettrism but would learn valuable lessons.

Isou invented a number of ground-breaking concepts: his work and thinking undoubtedly heralded major changes in art history. "Hypergraphics," "meca-aestheticss" and "infinitesimal art," correspond to key practices in the art of the second half of the 20th century. Isou's foresight can also be seen in other areas: the critical role he gave youth in his political theory would find its echo in Situationist thinking and the demands of May 1968.

PRESS OPENING

TUESDAY 5 MARCH 2019 / 5PM – 9PM
IN THE PRESENCE OF
NICOLAS LIUCCI-GOUTNIKOV,
CURATOR OF THE EXHIBITION

THE EXHIBITION

CURATORIAL TEAM

Nicolas Liucci-Goutnikov, Curator, Musée national d'art moderne, Paris
assisted by **Diane Toubert**, Researcher, Musée national d'art moderne, Paris

PARTNERS

Event organised as part of the
France-Romania Cycle 2019



With support from



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ADMISSION AND PRICES

Centre Pompidou, 75191 Paris cedex 04

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Access: metro Hôtel de Ville and Rambuteau, RER Châtelet-Les-Halles.

Opening times: every day from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., except Tuesdays and May 1st.

Admission: €14, reduced price €11

Free for those under 18. Young people under 26*, teachers and students at schools of art, drama, dance and music and members of the Maison des artistes may visit the Museum for free and buy tickets for exhibitions at the concessionary rate. Free admission for Centre Pompidou members.

Home printable tickets: centrepompidou.fr

AT THE SAME TIME AT THE CENTRE POMPIDOU

IN PARIS

VASARELY**SHARING FORMS**

6 FEBRUARY – 6 MAY 2019

GALLERY 2, LEVEL 6

JOS HOUWELING

6 FEBRUARY – 29 APRIL 2019

FOCUS ROOM, LEVEL 5

MUTATIONS / CREATIONS 3**DESIGNING THE LIVING****ERIKA VERZUTTI**

20 FEBRUARY – 15 APRIL 2019

GALLERY 3, LEVEL 1

ELLSWORTH KELLY

27 FEBRUARY – 27 MAY 2019

GALLERY ZERO, LEVEL 4

HARRY SHUNK**JANOS KENDER**

27 MARCH – 27 JUNE 2019

GALLERY OF PHOTOGRAPHIES,
LEVEL -1

STÉPHANE MANDELBAUM

6 MARCH – 20 MAY 2019

GRAPHIC ARTS GALLERY,
LEVEL 4

**A Romanian Cycle
at the Centre Pompidou****CIPRIAN MURESAN****SERBAN SAVU****L'ATELIER SANS FIN****THE ENDLESS WORKSHOP**

3 APRIL – 1 JULY 2019

BRANCUSI WORKSHOP

contact presse@centrepompidou.fr

In the Museum

MUSÉE EN ŒUVRE(S)**NEW PRESENTATION OF THE
CONTEMPORARY COLLECTIONS**

FROM 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

MUSEUM, LEVEL 4

HISTOIRE(S) D'UNE COLLECTION**NEW SERIES OF
EXHIBITION-DOSSIERS****IN THE MODERN COLLECTION****CIRCUITS**

FROM 31 MAY 2018

MUSEUM, LEVEL 5

contact presse@centrepompidou.fr

IN METZ

PAINTING THE NIGHT

UNTIL 15 APRIL 2019

GALLERIES 2 AND 3

THE ADVENTURE OF COLOUR**MAJOR ARTWORKS****FROM THE COLLECTION**

UNTIL 22 JULY 2019

GRANDE NEF

LEE UFAN**HABITER LE TEMPS****INHABITING TIME**

27 FEBRUARY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

GALLERY 1

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IN MÁLAGA

MATISSE

6 MARCH – 9 JUNE 2019

centrepompidou-malaga.eu

IN BRUSSELS

KANAL-CENTRE POMPIDOU**A YEAR OF PREFIGURATION**

UNTIL 10 JUNE 2019

kanal.brussels

contact presse@centrepompidou.fr

* Nationals of Member States of the EU or the European Economic Area aged 18–25. Valid the same day for the Musée National d'Art Moderne and all exhibitions.

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