

Press Release

Monday, February 20, 2023

Exporama

The exhibitions *Forever Sixties: The Spirit of the 1960s in the Pinault Collection* and *Art is Magic* will open to the public on Saturday, June 10, 2023

***Exporama* — Rennes' annual contemporary art event — is back this summer. Organised by the City and Metropole, the festival will take visitors on an urban walk spotlighting Rennes' numerous contemporary art initiatives. This third event features two major exhibitions: *Forever Sixties: The Spirit of the 1960s in the Pinault Collection* and *Art is Magic*, a retrospective devoted to the English artist Jeremy Deller.**

The Pinault Collection and the City of Rennes and Rennes Metropole are getting together again following the success of *Stand up!* (2018) and *Beyond Colour* (2021) at the Couvent des Jacobins. Their renewed partnership will feature an exclusive exhibition headlining work from François Pinault's 50-year-old collection: ***Forever Sixties*** will showcase over 80 iconic pieces, including work never previously shown. The exhibition sheds light on a turning point in the history of contemporary art: the "visual revolution" of the 1960s and its artistic influence on subsequent decades. The exhibition will run from June 10 to September 10 at the Couvent des Jacobins.

The Museum of Art, La Crie Centre of Contemporary Art and Frac Bretagne have teamed up to host ***Art is Magic***, the first retrospective in France devoted to the British artist Jeremy Deller. Since the 1990s Deller has developed an artistic approach that moves between conceptual, performance, installation and video art, where the themes are invariably rooted in social and political reality. This exhibition, which resonates with *Forever Sixties*, will be held in three different venues from June 10 to September 17.

Forever Sixties: The Spirit of the 1960s in the Pinault Collection

What did the 1960s represent? Freedom, repression, ownership? Swayed by British and American culture, the sixties were defined by an unprecedented demographic and economic boom, the emergence of the consumer society and the early conquest of space. They were marked in addition by ideological disputes, the Cold War and wars of decolonisation, not to mention the violent climax of the civil rights movement and sexual liberation. The 1960s were also a time of repression — the "Swinging Sixties" according to Richard Hamilton, playing on the words "swinging" and "swingeing": a locus of tension between conservatism and democratisation, dominant culture and alternative counter-cultures, commercial conformism and dreams of escape.

Pop art in the US and Europe was unashamedly committed to the here and now, both a product and symptom of its times. The movement threw the world of art into turmoil between 1956 and 1968. It redrew the canons of a moribund modernity, introducing a critical, rebellious spirit that dominates contemporary art to this day. Pop art broke away from the abstraction of the 1950s, and — together with *nouveau réalisme* in France — toppled hierarchies. Collage-like, the movement imported everyday issues and objects into the arts and the realm of thought, as well as incorporating show business and advertising; the reality of political, feminist and racial struggles; and the topical news of the mass media, which were to transform the western world into a global village.

The exhibition will feature work by the following: Richard Avedon, Evelyne Axell, John Baldessari, Teresa Burga, Robert Colescott, Llyn Foulkes, Gilbert & George, Robert Gober, Richard Hamilton, David Hammons, Duane Hanson, Alain Jacquet, Edward Kienholz, Kiki Kogelnik, Barbara Kruger, Christian Marclay, Tim Noble and Sue Webster, Raymond Pettibon, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Richard Prince, Martial Raysse, Ed Ruscha, Niki de Saint Phalle, Sturtevant, Jerzy Ryszard “Jurry” Zielinski.

Also featured in the exhibition will be a selection of historic album covers and a playlist of nearly 100 iconic titles from the sixties, specially designed for the event by Etienne Daho.

Curators: Emma Lavigne, CEO of the Pinault Collection, with Tristan Bera, research officer.

Exhibition opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Open Wednesday evenings until 9 p.m.

Art is Magic: a retrospective by Jeremy Deller

Art is Magic is the first French retrospective of the celebrated English artist Jeremy Deller (1966, London), winner of the prestigious 2004 Turner Prize and Britain’s representative at the Venice Biennale in 2013.

Deller is interested in popular culture and counter-cultures. His artistic inquiries focus not just on social issues and history but also on music. Deller’s oeuvre is tinged with acerbic humour and conscious socio-political discourse, making a connection between vernacular or mass culture and the world of work. The artist’s quest has led him to explore the social history of his country and further afield via the social conflict of the Thatcher era, the pop group Depeche Mode, the world of wrestling, the spawning ground of Brexit... and even acid house and the rave movement. In each case, Deller has constantly strived to involve other people in the creative process.

The *Art is Magic* exhibition provides a broad overview of Deller’s work from the 1990s to the present day, focusing on 15 major projects and key works that have marked his career. In addition, the event will be an opportunity to publish the first retrospective of the artist's work in French.

One retrospective, three worlds

The exhibition at the **Museum of Art** provides an overview of Deller's creative output since the 2000s through a combination of performance, video and installation. *Valerie's Snack Bar* and *Speak to the Earth and It Will Tell You* explore the ties that bind people together – the much-vaunted “social cohesion”. *The Battle of Orgreave* and *Putin's Happy* are presented as tools for investigating and examining political struggle and its treatment by the media, from the social conflict of the Thatcher years to the more recent arguments about Brexit.

This historical context — political, social and artistic — is also in evidence at **La Criée Centre of Contemporary Art** with *Warning Graphic Content*, a collection of Deller's poster and print work from 1993 to 2021 that includes over 100 pieces.

In direct response, the voice-over in Deller's slideshow *Beyond the White Wall* recounts his projects undertaken in the public space that blur the boundaries between the space of art and the social space.

The exhibition at **Frac Bretagne** presents Deller as the great observer of vernacular culture in the United Kingdom. *Folk Archive* (2005 with Alan Kane) combines drawing, painting, film, performance, costume, decoration, political opinions and humour, together with some astonishing objects. The work celebrates a vast range of British pastimes and pursuits, demonstrating that folk art in Britain is widespread and in good health.

As a counterpart to this installation, three films address the appropriation of popular culture: *English Magic* (2013), *Everybody in the Place: an Incomplete History of Britain 1984-1992* (2018) and *Our Hobby is Depeche Mode* (2006, with Nick Abraham).

Curators: Etienne Bernard, director of Frac Bretagne; Jean-Roch Bouiller, director of the Museum of Art; Sophie Kaplan, director of La Criée Centre of Contemporary Art; and Claire Lignereux, head of modern and contemporary art at the Museum of Art and coordinator of *Exporama*.

Exhibition opening hours:

- Museum of Art, 20 quai Emile Zola: Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- La Criée Centre of Contemporary Art, Place Honoré Commeurec: Tuesday to Sunday, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Frac Bretagne, 19 avenue André Mussat: Tuesday to Sunday, 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Free admission for under 26s

The City of Rennes and Rennes Metropole is keen to reach the widest possible audience. Entrance to the two exhibitions will be free for young people under 26, people with disabilities (and accompanying persons), *Sortir!* cardholders, people on income support and job seekers.

A combined ticket for admission to *Forever Sixties* (Couvent des Jacobins) and *Art is Magic* (Museum of Art, La Criée and Frac Bretagne) will also be on sale. Full price: € 12 Reduced rate: € 7.

Exporama: Festival of Contemporary Art

Exporama reflects Rennes' unbroken relationship with contemporary art. It also illustrates the city's active involvement in artistic creation and its dissemination through a mosaic of actors and cultural events that are open to everyone.

In addition to the two exhibitions above, Exporama 2023 will include:

- Additional events (exhibitions, performances, *in situ* projects, etc.) involving local actors in contemporary art;
- An urban art trail exploring the partners' exhibition venues and the new public commissions.

Useful information

You can download images for each exhibition in our [Press Area](#).

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