



Between forest and mountains in a small Alsatian village, the François Schneider Foundation is housed in a former bottling plant transformed into an art centre where spaces play on transparency and light. Nature, art and education converse joyfully and meet each other along the water's edge.

One of the Foundation's special features is that water has been chosen as the central theme of its artistic programme. Not only do the works in the competition - now forming a collection unique in Europe - question this vital element, the source of humanity, in a plastic, poetic, aesthetic, geographical, political or scientific manner, but also the entire programme explores this major subject.

In recent years, visitors have been able to navigate between the sculptures and fountains of Niki de Saint Phalle, Pol Bury or Renaud Auguste Dormeuil installed in the garden, get lost in the streams and waterfalls of Céleste Boursier-Mougenot, have their heads in the clouds, embark on Etienne Rey's wind and the pirate adventures of comic strip authors. They were able to plunge into the shores of Harry Gruyaert, become aware of Anna Katharina Scheidegger's fragile glaciers, listen to Tomoko Sauvage and his water bowls or the Artefact Ensemble with a more classical repertoire.

At the Foundation, water is multiple, soothing, frightening, playful. It allows meetings and encounters with local actors. Schools, psychiatric hospitals or even a prison are involved in important projects for which the Foundation gives carte blanche to non-professional artists who become creators through workshops and exhibitions presenting their projects.

With a view to regional anchoring, residences for art school graduates along the Rhine opened in 2018, allowing time for research and creation during the summer period. From Saarbrücken to Rotterdam via Basel, young artists are invited to take part.

Numerous partnerships have been forged in recent years with neighbouring institutions in order to create synergies. Media libraries, photographic spaces, festivals, the national scene, art schools, etc. host or propose projects linked to those of the Foundation.

At the end of the 1990s, it was visionary to conceive an institution around the theme of water, a major subject of the 21st century.

At the same time a place for reflection and escape, the Foundation explores local and international potentials, works on various scales and is aimed at a wide or academic public. The Foundation is a place to find and (re)find oneself.



THE FONDATION FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER,
**20 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION
& ARTISTIC CREATION**

- > An atypical and committed foundation
- > A philanthropic foundation in Alsace, located in rural areas and in the heart of Europe
- > A willingness to support equal opportunities, in terms of education and artistic creation
- > A territory on the Rhine inspiring programming that celebrates water and promotes interculturality
- > An annual international competition, Talents Contemporains, endowed with 300 000 euros
- > A 4 500 m² art centre, a sculpture garden and a collection of 78 works of art
- > Thematic exhibitions produced by and for the foundation
- > A residency program for young artists from schools along the Rhine River
- > Cultural mediation promoting exchange with artists and the awakening of the public, especially young people and audiences from all walks of life.

A philanthropic foundation created in 2000 and recognised as a public utility in 2005, the François Schneider Foundation pursues a dual commitment to education and culture. It enables high school students to access higher education through scholarships and supports contemporary artists in the development of their careers.

The Foundation, headed by Marie Terrieux, encourages creativity through various initiatives dedicated to the theme of water, including an international competition, the acquisition of works for its collection and the organisation of thematic exhibitions in its art centre and sculpture garden. It complements its action through publications, loans, travelling exhibitions and a residency programme for young artists from schools along the Rhine. Numerous social projects (schools, prisons, hospitals, etc.) have also been developed since 2018.

Situated on the banks of the Rhine, which stretches from Switzerland to the Netherlands via France and Germany, the François Schneider Foundation places interculturality at the centre of its programming and contributes to fostering rich exchanges between artists and the populations of these different territories.

20 years in a few dates

2000

Creation of the Foundation and launch of graduate scholarships

2005

Recognised as being of public utility

2011

Creation of the Contemporary Talents competition

2013

Inauguration of the contemporary art centre of 4 500 m²

2014

Exhibition « Narcisse » (Bill Viola, Anish Kapoor, Yayoi Kusama, Claude Levêque...)

2015

Exhibition « Nils Udo »

2018

Launch of Kunstart residences
Exhibition « Cloud Atlas » (Latifa Echakhch, Shilpa Gupta, Marco Godinho...)

2019

Exhibitions
« Céleste Boursier-Mougenot : *liquid, liquid* »
« Drawing water » (with the Cité Internationale de la Bande Dessinée)

2020

20 years of the Foundation

2021

Exhibition « The territories of water » (with the musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac)

20 years in numbers

2552 students

have been able to continue their studies thanks to the Foundation's graduate scholarships of **3 835 166 €**.

64 artists

have been rewarded by the Contemporary Talents competition since 2011 and exhibited at the Foundation.

1500000 €

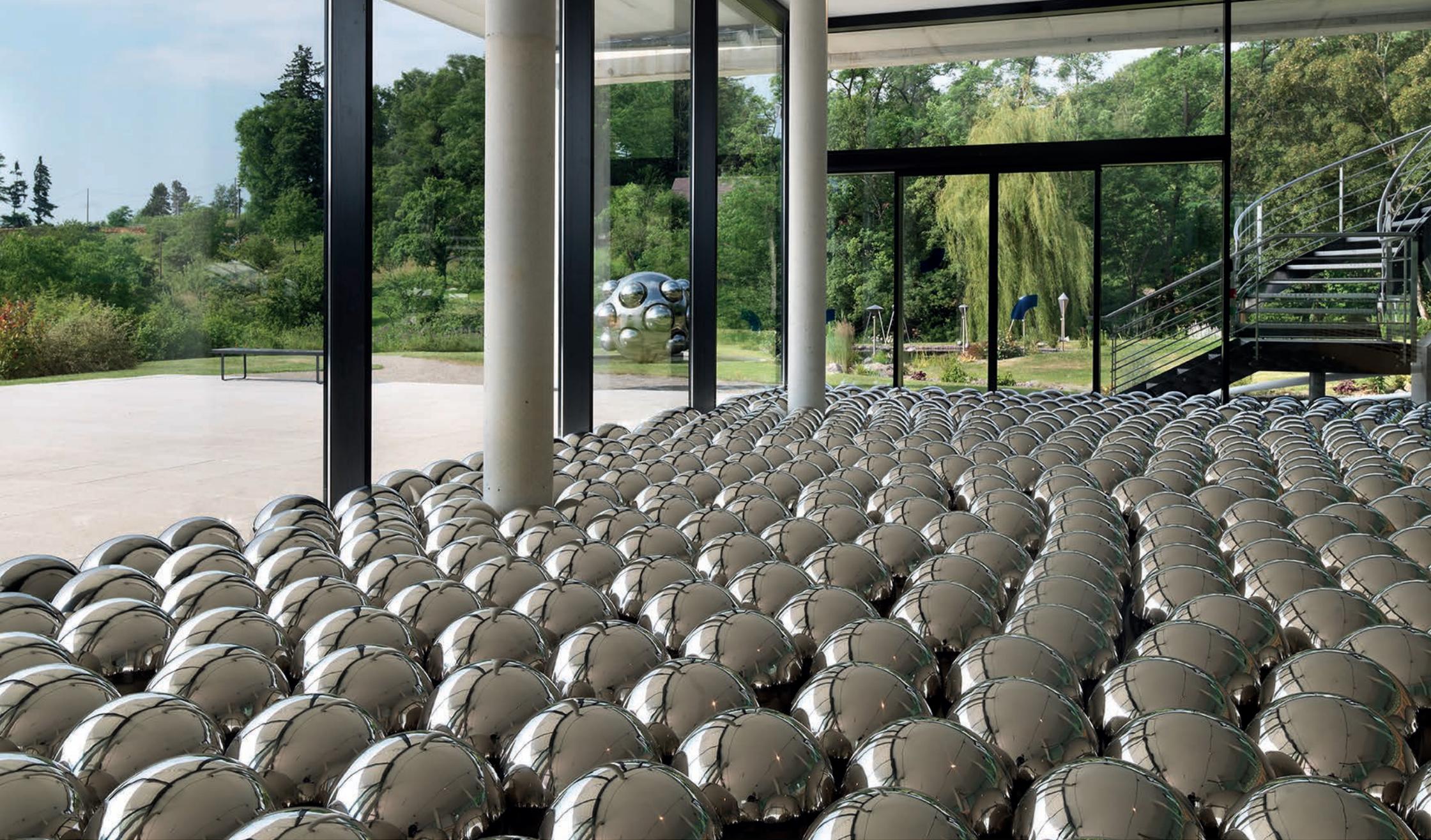
were devoted to the acquisition and production of works from the Talents Contemporains competition.

85 artworks

including monumental in-situ productions (Yves Chaudouët, Mehdi Meddaci, Renaud Auguste-Dormeuil, Jeremy Laffon...), have joined a unique collection on the theme of water.

21 exhibitions

themes, whether collective or personal, have been produced by the Foundation since the opening of the art centre in 2013 and **276 artists** were presented.



Narcisse *The image in the wave*

Exhibition from 14 June to 14 September 2014

Curator : Philippe Régnier

Yayoi Kusama, *Narcissus Garden* © André Morin

Adel Abdessemed, Kader Attia, Richard Baquié, Patty Chang, Marc Couturier, Michel François, Dan Graham, Fabrice Hyber, Ann Veronica Janssens, Anish Kapoor, Yayoi Kusama, Alicja Kwade, Bertrand Lavier, François Lemoine, Claude Lévêque, Oscar Muñoz, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Maxime Rossi, Franck Scurti, Bill Viola et Lawrence Weiner.



The 4 elements of **NILS-UDO**
Exhibition from 20 June from 13 September 2015

NILS-UDO, *La mousse II, les oeillets* © NILS-UDO



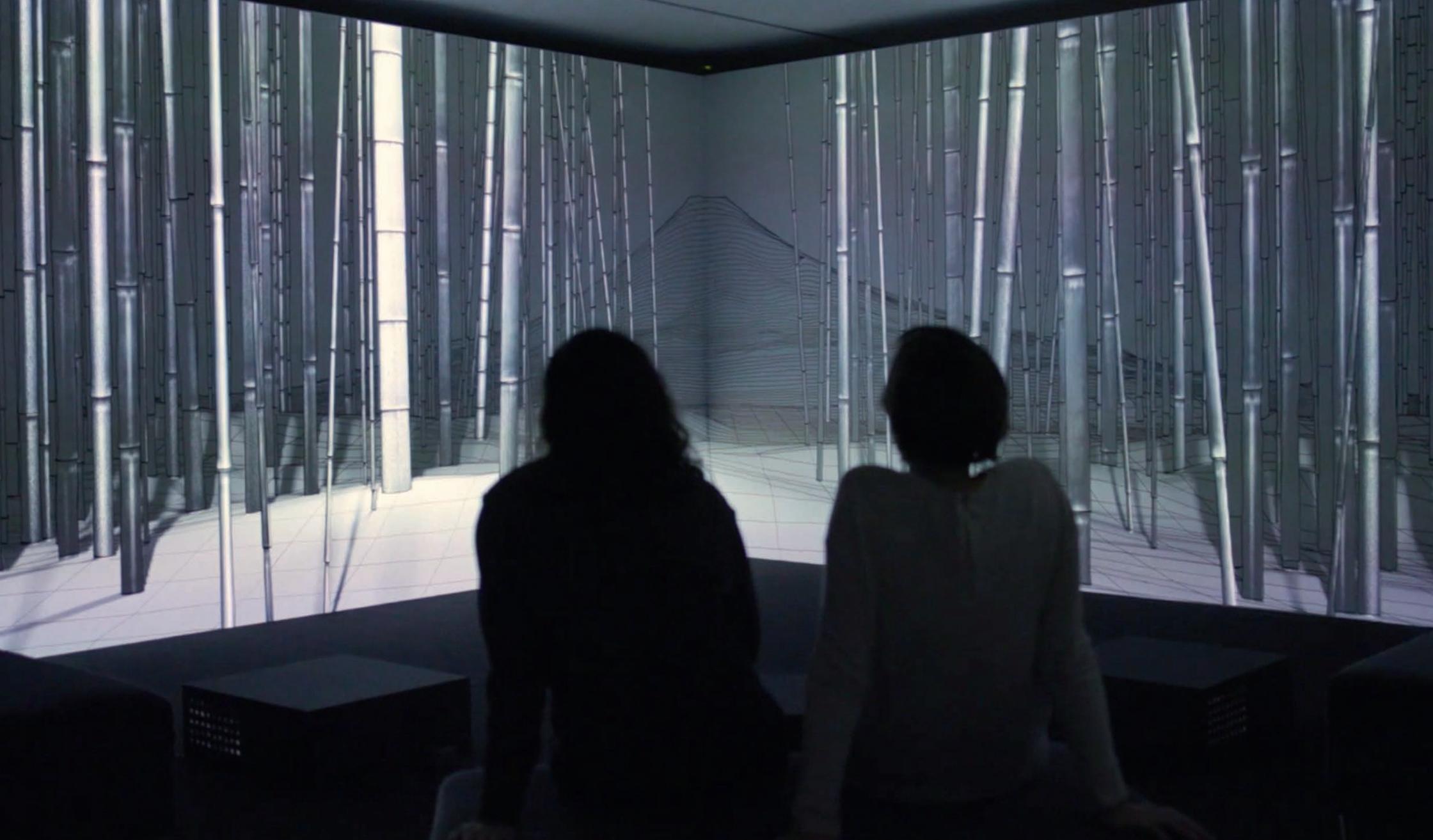
The Cloud Atlas

Exhibition from 23 June to 30 September 2018

Curator : Marie Terrieux

Caitlind r.c. Brown & Wayne Garrett, *CLOUD* © Steve Constanty

Marion Baruch, Hicham Berrada, Olaf Brzeski, Caitlind Brown & Wayne Garrett, Rhona Byrne, Hoang Duong Cam, Julien Discrit, Arpaïs du Bois, Latifa Echakhch, Emilie Faïf, Marco Godinho, Julie Guillem, Shilpa Gupta, Anne Immelé, Hao Jingfang & Wang Lingjie, Feng Li, Jean-Gabriel Lopez, Johan Parent, Berndnaut Smilde, Christophe Urbain, Bruno v. Roels, Sophie Zénon.



Testing the waters Fountains, tanks, flows, turbulence...

Exhibition from 28 October 2018 to 13 January 2019

In co-production with Quatre 4.0 / L'Ososphère

Curator : Thierry Danet

Joanie Lemerrier, *Fuji*, 2014 © courtesy of the artist, Juliette Bibasse

Herman Kolgen, Stéphane Kozik, Pe Lang, Joanie Lemerrier, Tristan Ménez, Jacques Perconte, Laurent Pernot, étienne Rey, Gaëtan Robillard, Urbrain, Pierce Warnecke.



Céleste Boursier-Mougenot *Liquid Liquid*

Exhibition from 7 June to 22 September 2019

Curator : Marie Terrieux

Céleste Boursier-Mougenot, *clinamen* v.6 © Laurent Lecat

THE FONDATION FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER **ACTS IN FAVOUR OF EDUCATION**

To support equal opportunities in access to higher education

Since the creation of the Foundation in 2000, François Schneider has wanted to act against the most unfair of inequalities, birth. The social environment can lead some to success while it prevents others from succeeding. Every year, the Foundation awards nearly a hundred scholarships to baccalaureate students who would otherwise be unable to continue their studies after obtaining their baccalaureate. The Foundation concentrates its action on the two departments to which François Schneider is most attached by his origins, Yonne and Haut-Rhin. It is also opening it to the Bas-Rhin in 2020.

The amount of the scholarships allocated, which can range from 500 to 5 000 euros, varies according to individual financial situations.

The Reading Committee

The applications are studied by the volunteer members of the Reading Committee after advice from the Director of the school. The committee meets twice a year: to set the programme and procedures to be implemented and at the time of awarding the scholarships.

The sixteen volunteers who make up the Reading Committee take the time to contact the applicants one by one and to discuss their financial situation and their study project with them.

Award criteria

- > be born in the Yonne or Haut-Rhin departments or have lived there for at least 6 years
- > be in a class of terminale in the year of application and justify, when the time comes, success in the baccalaureate exams,
- > be enrolled in a public or private school (general, vocational or technical high school) in the Yonne or Haut-Rhin departments
- > encounter financial difficulties in completing their studies

In brief

- > about 300 applications per year
- > a budget of €150,000 allocated each year
- > an average grant of 1200 € per student supported
- > a hundred or so partners (schools, academic inspectorates, rectorates, CIOs, social workers)
- > 1/3 of the beneficiary households have less than 10000 euros of annual income.
- > 76% of candidates engage in long-term studies each year
- > 79% of the students assisted are girls.

The course of events

March - June: call for applications from heads of secondary schools, public and private in the Yonne and Haut-Rhin; Dissemination of information to the IOCs, academic inspectorates, rectorates and social workers.

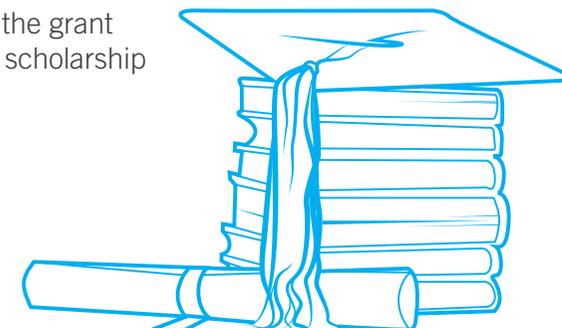
June: receipt of applications by the Foundation

July - August: study of the files by the reading committee

September: Proposals for scholarship awards by the Reading Committee; Letters of notification sent to candidates, sponsors, principals, academic inspections and rectorates; Payment of the first third of the scholarship before the start of the academic year.

January: payment of the 2nd third of the grant

April: payment of the 3rd third of the scholarship



THE FONDATION FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER SUPPORTS CONTEMPORARY CREATION

By supporting artists in the development of their careers
and by promoting access to culture for all.

An international competition: Contemporary Talents

Every year since 2011, the Talents Contemporains competition invites artists of all nationalities and disciplines to propose works or projects on the theme of water. The total annual grant for the competition amounts to 160,000 euros for a maximum of 4 winning artists who also benefit from a collective exhibition in the Foundation's art centre and an exhibition catalogue.

Four or five committees of experts, each composed of two art and culture professionals, have the task of identifying, from among all the works or projects received, some forty finalists who will be presented to the International Grand Jury.

2021 Calendar

The call for applications for the 10th edition of the competition closed on 20 November 2020.

The names of the 30 finalists of the 10th edition of the Contemporary Talents competition were announced on 10 February 2021 and a booklet with the 30 pre-selected works is published.

The Grand Jury will meet in April to choose the 4 winners of the 10th edition, whose works will be acquired by the Foundation and presented in a collective exhibition at the art center in the fall of 2021 with the works of the winners of the 9th edition of the competition.

The call for applications for the 11th edition will open on September 1, 2021.

The 2021 International Grand Jury, under the presidency of **Jean-Noël Jeanneney**
Constance de Monbrison, Head of the Insulinde collections of the musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac (Paris)

Alfred Pacquement, Honorary General Curator of Heritage (Paris)

Chiara Parisi, director of the Centre Pompidou–Metz (Metz)

Ernest Pignon-Ernest, artist (Paris)

Roland Wetzel, Director of the Museum Tinguely (Basel)



In brief

- > an annual international contemporary art competition dedicated to the theme of water
- > more than 1 000 applications per year from over 100 countries
- > Each year, 4 winning artists benefit from a group exhibition in the Foundation's art centre, a bilingual publication and the acquisition of their work.
- > a unique collection with some 60 works by 64 prize-winning artists
- > a maximum grant of 160 000 euros per year, 15 000 euros per winner and 80 000 euros for the production of the works presented in the form of projects, as production aid

An art centre installed in the heart of a village in Alsace

Located at the foot of the Vosges Mountains, in the village of Wattwiller in Alsace, in the heart of an exceptional landscape, the art centre of the François Schneider Foundation offers an annual cultural programme and exhibitions devoted to the theme of water. Inaugurated in 2013 in a former bottling workshop, enlarged and transformed, the site offers a space of 4 500 m².

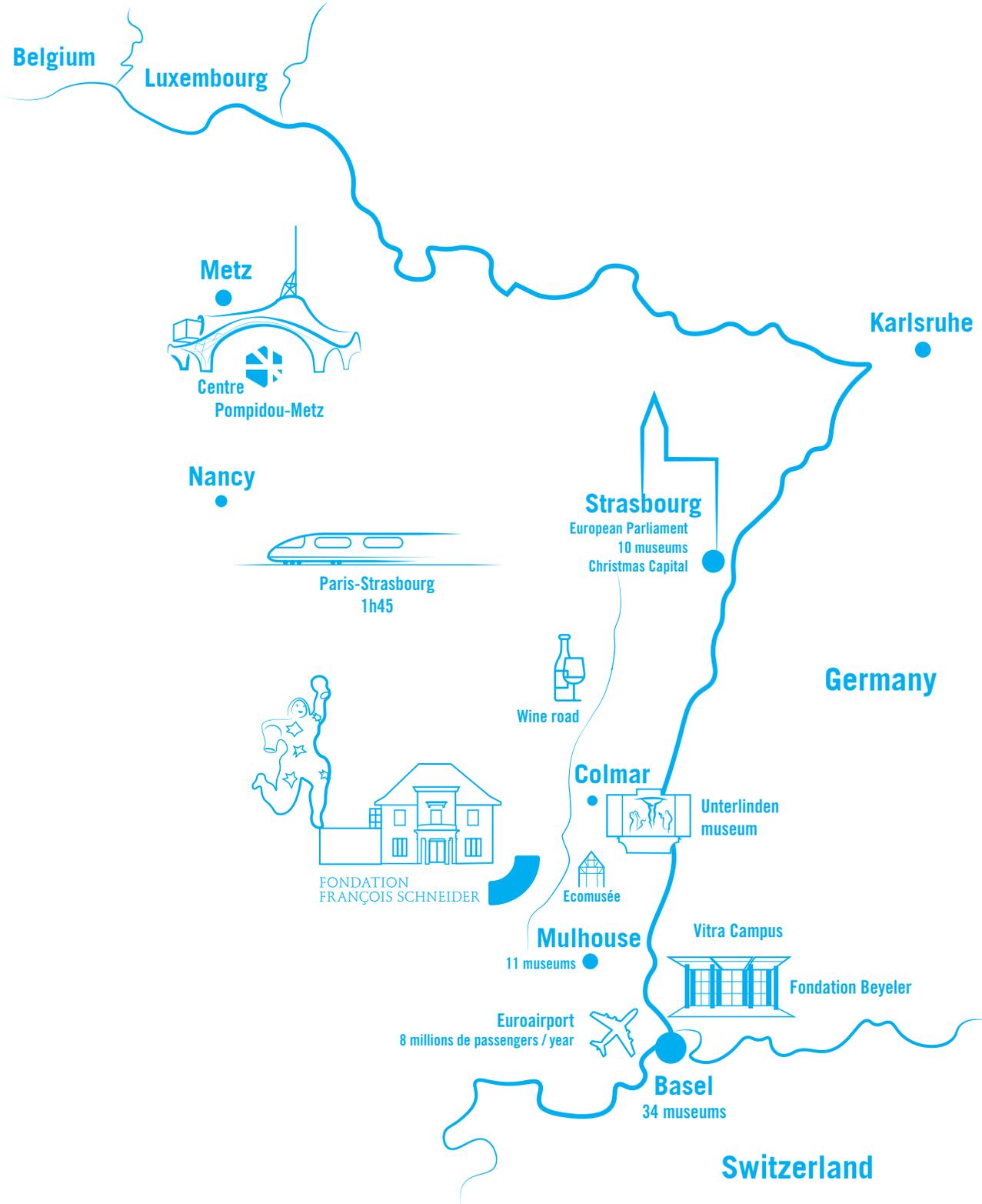
Designed around light and transparency, the building includes three exhibition halls with a surface area of 1 200 m². An adjoining sculpture garden offers an artistic walk amidst permanent works of art from the 20th and 21st centuries. Water cascades down from the monumental Nana, Star Fountain by Niki de Saint-Phalle, flows from Ilana Isehayek's water spinning tops, before marrying the Vosges crests evoked by Sylvie de Meurville's installation and sparkling along Pol Bury's steel spheres. In Renaud Auguste-Dormeuil's large From Here to There basin, the water reflects the movement of the clouds before being sent across the Pacific through an imaginary tunnel.

A bookshop, a restaurant, a shop, an auditorium and a panoramic terrace complete the visitor's route.



In brief

- > a former bottling plant of the Wattwiller mineral water springs transformed into an art centre around light and transparency
- > a unique and unifying theme: water
- > a rich program: workshops, concerts, conferences, screenings...
- > international artists: Nils-Udo, Fabrizio Plessi, Anish Kapoor, Bill Viola, Shilpa Gupta, Marco Godhino, Latifa Echakhch, Céleste Boursier-Mougenot...
- > numerous partnerships with local cultural and social players



A rich territory

- > a cultural and international territory
- > the proximity of the Swiss and German borders
- > the complementarity with major cultural and tourist centres : Fondation Beyeler, Musée Unterlinden, Vitra campus, Ecomusée, the 11 museums of Mulhouse (Cité de l'automobile, Musée de l'impression sur étoffes, etc.), the wine route, Hartmannswillerkopf...
- > easy access: Basel-Mulhouse international airport (8 million passengers per year) 30 minutes away and Mulhouse and Colmar train stations (2h45 from Paris by TGV).



A unique collection on the theme of water

- > 85 works on the theme of water, including 64 of the winners of the Contemporary Talents competition.
- > sculptures, installations, photographs, paintings, drawings, videos, including 8 works produced especially for the Foundation
- > travelling works on loan for exhibitions
- > a garden of sculptures with works by Niki de Saint Phalle, Pol Burry, Lorella Abenavoli, Clément Borderie, Sylvie de Meurville, Ilana Isehayek, Renaud Auguste-Dormeuil, Rachael Louise Bailey

Over the years, a unique art collection of 78 pieces has been built up, notably through the acquisition of works by the winners of the international competition Talents Contemporains - drawings, paintings, sculptures, videos, photos or installations - illustrating the theme of water from different angles (scientific, political, ecological, philosophical...) and testifying to the diversity of artistic practices in the 21st century.

The works acquired over the years bring together renowned artists as well as young creators, with the theme of water as a common thread.

The Foundation's collection also travels through loans of works for exhibitions in France and Europe, as was the case in Lisbon in 2018 at the Museu Do Dinheiro (Museum of the Mint) and the Cordoaria Nacional, in Epinal in 2018, in Strasbourg in different places between 2015 and 2019, in Bordeaux for Les arts au murs, Artothèque de Pessac ; in Meymac, at the Abbaye Saint André, CAC; or in Nantes, at the Chapelle du Grand T in 2016 or at the Passage Sainte-Croix in 2017. Itinerant projects of the collection are planned in Switzerland and China for 2021 and 2022.



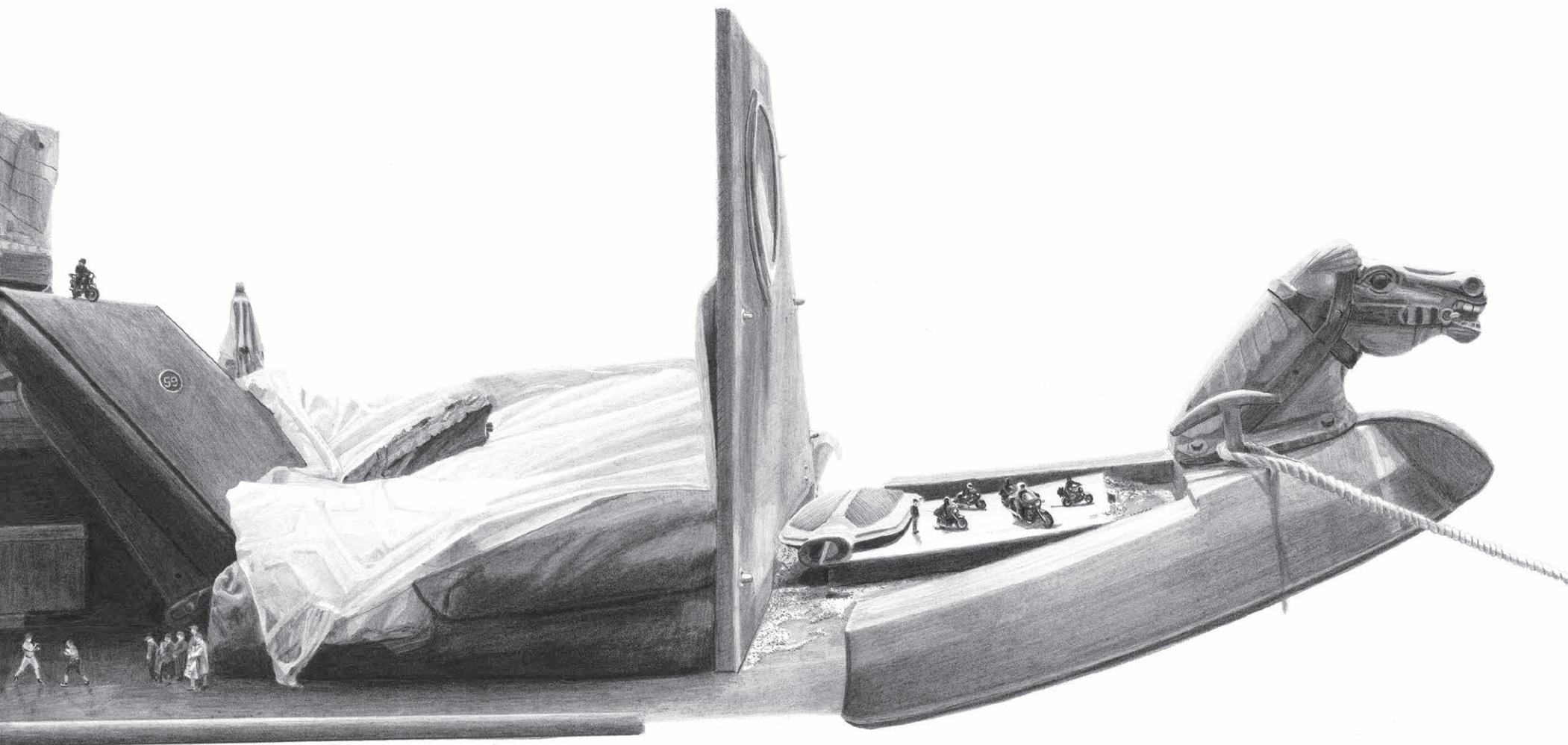
Yves Chaudouët, *Les poissons des grandes profondeurs ont pied*, 2006
200 pieces of blown and/or drawn glass, microprocessors, clusters of leds, variable dimensions
© Fondation François Schneider – Steeve Constanty



Mehdi Meddaci, *Murs*, 2011
Video installation, 44 min, variable dimensions
© Fondation François Schneider – Laurent Troendlé



Collectif Sandra & Ricardo, *The Memory of water*, 2017
Installation, plastic bags filled with water, diving board and pool ladder
© Fondation François Schneider – Steeve Constanty



Jessie Brennan, *The Cut*, 2011
Drawing, pencil on paper
© Fondation François Schneider – Jessie Brennan



Elizaveta Konovalova, *Altstadt*, 2014
Installation, Remains of bricks collected on the banks of the Elbe in Hamburg
© Fondation François Schneider – Steeve Constanty

The Kunststart residences

Since 2018, the François Schneider Foundation's support system for contemporary creation has been supplemented by the launch of the Kunststart programme of artistic residencies. In this way, the Foundation wishes to develop the interculturality linked to its situation at the heart of four Rhine countries and to encourage exchanges between artists and local populations.

The Kunststart residencies are open on a call for projects to visual artists from art schools along the Rhine (students in their final year, preparing for their Higher National Diploma of Plastic Expression, Master's degree or equivalent diploma and artists who have been graduates of these schools for less than five years).

The young artists are accompanied by the Foundation with intellectual, logistical and financial support during their two-month stay in Wattwiller. During their residency, the artists undertake to meet the public, notably during two open workshops and a meeting programmed at the art centre.

This initiative embodies the vitality of creation on the Rhine.

In brief

- > an opening on a call for projects to plastic surgeons from schools along the Rhine
- > in 2018 and 2019, 4 schools located in Basel, Strasbourg and Mulhouse (HEAR), Saarbrücken and the Netherlands
- > intellectual, logistical and financial support during their two-month stay, with no obligation to produce, and a grant of 1 500€ per resident
- > meetings and exchanges with the public



Welcoming and awakening audiences

For several years now, the Foundation has been pursuing a proactive approach aimed at all audiences, thanks to educational mediation that promotes exchange and access to culture. In particular, the Foundation has set up a personalised welcome for each visitor, publishes educational files, produces workshops dedicated to families, workshops with artists and offers a varied programme of events (concerts, dance, performances, etc.). In addition to «classic» mediation projects, a whole section is dedicated to collaborations in the region with hospitals, prisons and early childhood institutions.

Some examples of social projects

> **1001 drops:** an exhibition born of a collaborative, educational and artistic project rooted in the Rhine area, thanks to which 1000 pupils from the region worked on an artistic project questioning the issue of water

> **Revelations:** In 2018, an exhibition was born out of a partnership between the Rouffach Hospital Center and the François Schneider Foundation, involving a group of patients in an artistic project on the theme of the cloud and the cyanotype technique, led by the artist Audrey Abraham. In 2020, another group of patients created a comic strip on the theme of the journey of a fish. They are accompanied, from the writing of the screenplay to the image, by comic book writer Stéphane Piatzsek.

> Every year since 2018, **nursery assistants in the Thann-Cernay sector** have been

trained in contemporary creation awareness and have thus been able to visit exhibitions with the children in their care in a fun and interactive way. In 2018 this training focused on body awareness, in 2019 on the making of a musical instrument and in 2020 on the plastic arts.

> **A Matt pass** has been created, which allows assistants from the community of communes to come free of charge to the Foundation with the children in their care.

> The François Schneider Foundation and the **Maison Centrale d'Ensisheim** are collaborating on the Culture and Health project. In 2022, Paul Souviron, an artist from the collection, will lead five workshops with prisoners on the theme of water towers, which will result in a return of the works created at the Foundation.

In brief

- > a strong pedagogical dimension: personalised welcome, pedagogical files, workshops, etc. and workshops with artists
- > the art centre, an educational space, a real creative, fun and friendly place to spend time with the family
- > Since its inception, the Foundation has organized more than 120 events for all audiences.











The Territories of Water

22 May
— 26 September 2021

Exhibition co-organized with
the musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac



2021 programmation

The territories of water

Exhibition from 22 May to 26 September 2021

The Foundation presents The Territories of Water, a new exhibition conceived in partnership with the Musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac. It offers a unique dialogue based on a selection of 120 contemporary artworks from the collections built up since 2011 and non-European objects related to the representation of water.

Water is considered as a social space, an object of beliefs and rituals, a geographical territory, a technical tool, an element of survival or a source of inspiration.

The exhibition questions the way in which artists, creators or craftsmen have seized this universal subject. Whatever their status, everyday objects, sacred objects or contemporary works of art, they all bear witness to the links woven by men with the primary source of life.



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