

MUSÉE CANTONAL DES BEAUX-ARTS DE LAUSANNE

Press kit

Lausanne, 1.10.2019

Opening exhibition honours the donations

An original exhibition and the very first in the new MCBA (Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne) building located on the PLATFORM 10 site.

The museum's director Bernard Fibicher has curated the event, which thematically sets period works against a variety of approaches. Works and approaches have over the years greatly contributed to the cultural heritage of the Canton of Vaud.

Through this inaugural exhibition in its new home, MCBA is exploring its inner terrain, its interior topology, i.e., the vast galleries now available to it, the state-of-the-art technology of its display capabilities and infrastructure, and finally a whole part of the city whose potential remains to be explored. In a context that makes clear there are many adventures to come, MCBA is allowing itself a number of surprising dialogues between premodern, modern and contemporary works of art. It has put together several sets of themes and forms. And it has created for itself a kind of cartography, one of an experimental museum in which the artworks interact without chronological, geographic, or scholarly constraints. In an age of globalization and in response to our virtual world, which empties out reality of its substance, MCBA is forging a network of unique physical pieces endowed with an aura that is, in the words of Walter Benjamin, "the unique apparition of a distance, however near..." MCBA is bringing to light the suggestive and eminently formative potential of its *terrae incognitae*, its unknown lands. The museum is inviting visitors to page through the plates of an atlas of its own creation.

349 works make up the geography of the *Atlas* show, extending over 3 floors, 14 galleries, and 11 chapters:

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|------------------|-----------------------|--|
| -Carte du tendre | -Terra incognita | -Tourner en rond sans perdre le nord |
| -Forests | -World maps - History | <i>Going in Circles without Losing Your Bearings</i> |
| -Flows | -Music | |
| -Pain | -Swiss Army Knife | -Index des contrées à venir |
| | | <i>Index of Future Countries</i> |

Choosing to develop an ambitious program of exhibitions and events around a common denominator, i.e., the concept of acquisition, how the artworks got into the museum, MCBA is opening and opening up to the public by featuring a representative selection of donations and long-term loans that have entered the collections in support of the new museum project, though without overlooking the importance of the oldest donations, including those of Dr. Widmer, going back to 1936 and 1939. A place of honor has been reserved for Alice Pauli's recent donations (Pierre Soulages, Anselm Kiefer, Giuseppe Penone, Anish Kapoor, etc.), as well as a number of works of great importance in terms of the canton's cultural heritage (Auguste Rodin, Paul Klee, Balthus, Giovanni Giacometti, Félix Vallotton, Louise Nevelson, Rebecca Horn, Maria Elena Vieira da Silva, etc.).

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Bernard Fibicher: “The message artists offer always seems to be the same, i.e., run from oversimplification, increase the number of viewpoints, according to the principle of world maps; at the same time there will spring up the need to break down the totalizing world and appropriate it, each in their own way.”

Exhibition

Atlas. A Cartography of Donation (5.10.2019 – 12.1.2020)

Catalogue

Atlas. Cartographie du don

64 pages, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne, 2019