

Dossier de presse

Lausanne, le 12 mars 2020

Taus Makhacheva. 4'224,92 cm² de Degas
(13.3 – 17.5.2020)

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Press Kit

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Taus Makhacheva. 4'224,92 cm² of Degas
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First artist to exhibit in the Espace Projet, a space entirely dedicated to contemporary art (Free admission)

The works of Taus Makhacheva (born 1983, lives and works in Moscow), whether they take the form of performances, installations, or videos, are often inspired by a story – told, imagined, or experienced first-hand. She explores the grand narratives of history and the history of art, focusing on their constructions, omissions, and geographical and political slants. Take *Tightrope* (2015), a video installation presented at the 57th Venice Biennale, which shows a tightrope walker carrying copies of paintings from the Museum of Fine Arts named after P.S. Gamzatova in the artist's native Dagestan across a rope stretched taut across a precipice, offering a metaphor both of the artist's position and the hierarchies at work in the creation of artistic value.

For Lausanne, Taus Makhacheva has developed her considerations on our relationship to the past, to culture and to the fluctuating value of art, drawing on the MCBA collection. Her installation for the Project Space is the result of a lengthy process of research, during which she followed the move from the former museum site where the institution was housed since 1906, to its new premises which opened in 2019, and all the steps involved in restoring, packing, and transporting the art works. She also probed the history of the collection, taking an interest both in the grand narratives that underpin it and the anecdotes and individuals who built it up over the years, exploring the correspondence in the museum archive from the 1930s onwards and conducting interviews with members of staff. The artist offers visitors a stroll through an imaginary museum that fleshes out narratives rooted in reality but rendered as a fiction.

The exhibition title refers to the mysterious disappearance of 4,224,92 cm² from a pastel by Edgar Degas in the MCBA collection at some point between the inventory drawn up after his death and the work's acquisition by the museum in 1936 (*Blanchisseuses et chevaux, c. 1904*). This enigmatic loss echoes Taus Makhacheva's interest in processes of construction of artistic value, while also offering a clue that let her plan her exhibition like a plot and lay it out like a narrative across the installation space.

Taus Makhacheva's installation is almost entirely made up of fabric, a medium that protects and envelops while at the same time holding the potential for uncovering. Gesturing both to painted canvas and to clothing, decor, and the tradition of soft sculpture, it can be read as a human-scale cross section model of an abandoned museum. Soft-picture rails that seem to have been put up at children's height, hand-embroidered with stories both real and fictional of how artworks came to be in various museum collections, confetti on which details of paintings can be identified, and bolts of printed cloth on which the rough lines of the now missing parts of the Degas pastel can be made out, all lead to a large board, hung horizontally like an imaginary ceiling, with several openings that visitors are invited to poke their heads through to listen to a sound that simultaneously evokes water, fire, termites and various other pests. The visitors' bodies are thus incorporated into the installation, playing an active listening role while temporarily becoming motionless, ephemeral statues as part of the installation. In another part of the space, stories about the value of art, about museum storage and that which is kept, collected and yet hidden, are broadcast by loudspeakers. Like the sculptural elements of the

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Images presse – Pressebilder- Press images



Portrait : Taus Makhacheva
Photo : Natalia Pokrovskaya



Taus Makhacheva. 4224, 92 cm2 de Degas, 2020, installation, son

Taus Makhacheva. 4224, 92cm2 Degas, 2020, Mixed-Media Installation, Ton

Taus Makhacheva. 4224, 92 cm2 Degas, 2020, mixed media installation, audio

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Taus Makhacheva. 4224, 92 cm2 de Degas, 2020, installation, son

Taus Makhacheva. 4224, 92cm2 Degas, 2020, Mixed-Media Installation, Ton

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installation, the narratives populate the space and transform the relationship with time and with that which is known, imagined, witnessed, or felt.

The exhibition is a part of the free programme at the Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts' Project Space, a 230 square meter space entirely dedicated to new commissions from both local and international contemporary artists.

Curated by Nicole Schweizer

Publication

Taus Makhacheva. 4'224,92 cm² of Degas,
with texts by Uzma Z. Rizvi, Nicole Schweizer and Vincent van Velsen (FR/EN)
Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne, 2020 (coll. Espace Projet, n°1)
Available at the MCBA bookshop → shop.mcba@vd.ch

Events

Guided tour

Tuesday 24 March, 12:30 pm
with Nicole Schweizer

Screening and discussion with Taus Makhacheva

Thursday 30 April, 6:30 pm
MCBA Auditorium

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Taus Makhacheva. 4'224,92 cm² of Degas
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Biography

Taus Makhacheva

Born 1983, lives and works in Moscow

Education

2003–2007

BA Fine Art, Goldsmiths College, University of London, London

2008–2009

New Strategies in Contemporary Art, The Institute of Contemporary Art, Moscow

2011–2013

MA Fine Art, Royal College of Art, Londres

Recent solo shows (selection)

Hold Your Horses, The Tetley, Leeds (2020)

Superhero Sighting Society, avec Sabih Ahmed, Fondation Kadist, Paris (2019)

Charivari, Yarat Centre, Bakou, Azerbaïdjan (2019)

D'une pierre, une montagne, Le CAP – Centre d'arts plastiques Saint-Fons (2019)

Storeroom, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (2018)

BaidÀ, narrative projects, London (2018)

Cloud Caught on a Mountain,

Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow (2017)

(In)sidenotes, Uppsala Konstmuseum (2015)

Vabababai Vadadadai!, narrative projects, London, (2015)

Recent group shows (selection)

Lahore Biennale (2020); 15th Lyon Biennale (2019); 12th Kaunas Biennale (2019); Manifesta 12 in Palermo (2018); Liverpool Biennale (2018); Yinchuan Biennale (2018); Riga international Biennale of Contemporary Art (2018); 57th Venice Biennale (2017); Triennial of Russian Contemporary Art, Moscow (2017); 11th Shanghai Biennale (2016) and Sharjah Biennale (2013).

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La collection (from 13.03.2020)

Espace Projet & Espace Focus : upcoming exhibitions

Espace Projet — 230 m²

A space entirely dedicated to new commissions from both local and international contemporary artists.
(Free admission)

Programme 2020

Taus Makhacheva

4'224,92 cm² de Degas
13.3 – 17.5.2020

Jorge Macchi

La Cathédrale engloutie
5.6 – 23.8.2020

Anne Rochat

Prix culturel Manor Vaud 2020
11.9 — 22.11.2020

Unique et multiple

Œuvres récentes de la collection d'art BCV
11.12.2020 – 14.2.2021

Espace Focus — 135 m²

Exhibitions about aspects of the Collection, with partners of the MCBA: Fondation Toms Pauli, Fondation Félix Vallotton, Fondation Balthus Klossowski de Rola, etc.
(Free admission)

Programme 2020

Yersin dessinateur

Quittez mines grises,
le printemps est là !
10.4 — 21.6.2020

Giovanni Giacometti

Aquarelles
10.7 — 11.10.2020

Christian Boltanski

Reliques et monuments 1985-1996
30.10.2020 — 3.1.2021

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Partenaire et sponsors

Le bâtiment du MCBA a été inauguré le 5 avril 2019. Il a été construit par le Canton de Vaud, avec le soutien de la Ville de Lausanne et les partenariats privés suivants :

Fondation Les Mûrons

Loterie Romande



Fondation Anita et Werner Damm-Etienne

BCV



Fondation Gandur pour l'Art



Audemars Piguet



Madame Alice Pauli

Fondation Ernst Göhner



Nestlé



Fondation Art et Vie

Philip Morris International



ECA – Établissement cantonal d'assurance



Abakanowicz art and culture charitable foundation

Fondation Payot



Association rétrospective Pierrette Gonseth-Favre