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Abbaye de Maubuisson

Inquiétances des temps

A journey through the Cnap video collection

Abbaye de Maubuisson, Saint-Ouen l'Aumône, 25 April – 29 August 2021

Curated for Abbaye de Maubuisson, *Inquiétances des temps* is a journey through the Centre national des arts plastiques video collection in four successive chapters, each a reflection on different forms of resistance.

It draws inspiration from *Inquiétances des temps*, (“the uncanniness of time”): the title of the French translation of volume two of Alexander Kluge’s *Chronicle of Feelings*. In this work, which brings together themes of instability, strangeness and the uncanny, the German writer and filmmaker considers forms of resistance that are echoed in numerous contemporary works.

Some 60 films selected from the 1,000 films in the Cnap video collection

Close to 60 films from the Cnap collection have been chosen for the exhibition. They are steeped in present-day issues: questions of exile, the places we live, the individuals who resist, who fight for utopian ideals against the “uncanniness” of our times. Together they give a perspective on a vast spectrum of generations, national and geographic origins, and narrative techniques. They reflect the diversity of the 1,000 films that make up the Cnap video collection, which in turn bears witness to the wealth and complexity of international video production, as well as video’s capacity to invent an art that is both visual and audible, and which maps a global geography and a cartography of time.

Multiple aesthetic currents

Certain films convey video’s faculty to construct a situation and to map human experience through animated images that recreate the performative dimension of this art. Others reveal the elaboration of visual architectures or enigmatic micro-narratives. A standalone collection within the Fonds national d’art contemporain (France’s national contemporary art collection), these video works form a coherent whole that bears witness to the many aesthetic currents which exist in contemporary creation.

An ideal setting: Abbaye de Maubuisson, a royal Cistercian convent

Where better to host these works than Abbaye de Maubuisson, the Cistercian convent founded in 1236 by the queen consort, Blanche of Castile. Home of religious communities, for centuries Cistercian abbeys played an important role in matters of art and culture through their libraries and their universities, forming networks across Europe.

The works shown in *Inquiétances des temps* are contemporary echoes of the humanist concerns that permeate the Cistercian cultural space: minority and vernacular cultures, work, habitat, the economy, territories in times of war, community and history. For a cartography of the present time that engages with the Abbey's spirit and soul.

From April to August 2021, coinciding with the exhibition, screenings will be held at the Utopia cinema in Saint-Ouen l'Aumône and at cinemas in Paris, together with artist-led debates and talks.

Curator: Pascale Cassagnau, head of the video and animated image collection at Centre national des arts plastiques.

Featuring works by:

Basma Alsharif, Lamine Ammar-Khodja, Marwa Arsanios, Mali Arun, Marcos Avila Forero, Yael Bartana, Éric Baudelaire, Louidgi Beltrame, Guy Ben-Ner, Wang Bing, Shirley Bruno, Filipa César, Jordi Colomer, Willie Doherty, Olivier Dollinger, Stan Douglas, Harun Farocki, Hassen Ferhani, Dora Garcia, Joanna Grudzinska, Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, Salomé Lamas, Florence Lazar, Marie Losier, Randa Maroufi, Gordon Matta-Clark, Narimane Mari, Deimantas Narkevicius, Jhafis Quintero, Naufus Ramirez-Figueroa, Dania Raymond, Allan Sekula, Albert Serra, Hito Steyerl, Ana Vaz, Marie Voignier, Olivier Zabot.

Publication:

Inquiétances des temps

(Enquête sur une exposition potentielle/Une traversée des films de la collection du Centre national des arts plastiques)

Jointly published by Cnap and Éditions HYX, Orleans.

Compiled in this work, texts by Pascale Cassagnau, Sylwia Chrostowska, Christophe David, Alexander Kluge, Vincent Pauval, Florent Perrier and Muriel Pic form reflective counterpoints to the films in the Cnap collection that question both the concerns of an era and history-making through images, at the same time recounting multiple acts of resistance: of film as a metaphor for reality deformed by the mental process, of counter-history, of a critical time-archive, of the essay as a documentary form. Essay-investigations into the present of films, these texts also shape the contours of an ideal exhibition in four sequences while "exposing" the dream nature of the works; their prolongation in writing that reveals the latency of their aesthetic and political charge.

Inquiétances des temps

25 April to 29 August 2021

Abbaye de Maubuisson, contemporary art centre of the Conseil Départemental du Val d'Oise

Avenue Richard de Tour

95310 Saint-Ouen l'Aumône

www.abbaye-de-maubuisson.fr

Contingent on Covid-19 health restrictions, the first part of the exhibition (24 April-24 May 2021) may be shown on the Abbaye de Maubuisson YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cgvaldoise>

Abbaye de Maubuisson

Property of the Conseil Départemental du Val d'Oise, Abbaye de Maubuisson is a former Cistercian convent founded in 1236 by Blanche of Castile. The Maubuisson estate is the site of the remaining buildings of the former Notre-Dame-La-Royale abbey, now classed as Historic Monuments. Archaeological ruins are found throughout the 25 acres of wooded grounds. A stream, a canal and a water mirror are other features of interest and a reminder of the hydraulic systems that existed here from the Middle Ages into the eighteenth century.

Now a centre for contemporary art, the Abbey stages important monographic exhibitions and also develops its own research, production and art facilitation programmes on themes that are central to its identity: legacy, contemporary creation and the natural environment.

Centre national des arts plastiques (Cnap) is one of the principal actors implementing Ministry of Culture policy in contemporary visual art. Acting on behalf of the state, it adds to the Fonds national d'art contemporain: France's national contemporary art collection which it conserves and promotes, inside and outside France, through loans, as a partner to exhibitions and through publications. The collection holds close to 105,000 works acquired over more than two centuries from living artists and is a reflection of the wealth and diversity of artistic currents. As a major cultural stakeholder, Cnap encourages artistic practice in all its diversity. It provides support for artists and art professionals through a number of mechanisms and gives visibility to the projects which have benefited from this support.

Cnap video collection

A collection in its own right within the Fonds national d'art contemporain, it is representative of the many and diverse aesthetic currents that exist in contemporary creation. With more than 1,000 works, the video collection comprises video installations, projections and monobands.

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