COLLECTION GUIDE

PLACE YVES KLEIN - NICE
MAMAC-NICE.ORG
The MAMAC covers a vast period from the late 1950s to the present day. Among the 1,400 works in its collection, the museum offers a regularly renewed discovery of nearly 200 works. This summer, the tour is in major mode with key works of Pop Art and New Realism. Visitors will also be able to discover two monographic rooms, unique in Europe, dedicated to Yves Klein and Niki de Saint Phalle. This year the MAMAC is offering a new "Tribute" display to Niki de Saint Phalle to mark the 20th anniversary of the exceptional donation made by the French-American artist to the museum. On the top floor, the artists Aïcha Hamu and Katrin Ströbel have been given carte blanche to compose a dialogue with a group of works from the collection in room 9 on the theme of "Histoire.s de l’œil".

**ROOMS 4 AND 8**

**NEW REALISM / POP ART**

**The revolution of the 1960s**

American Pop Art was born in the wake of a first English Pop which crystallized in London in 1956 during an exhibition that had become emblematic: This is tomorrow, organized at the Whitechapel Gallery. Though it has no direct link with English Pop Art, American Pop Art refers to a trend born out of individual initiatives. Not a structured movement in the sense of a group which organizes collective events, it certainly has coherence. Essentially derived from the work of Robert Rauschenberg and especially Jasper Johns, it is characterized by an interest in ordinary objects, irony, and a confidence in the visual power of images. The center of American Pop Art is mainly located in New York, where first artists like Claes Oldenburg and Jim Dine, Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, then James Rosenquist, George Segal, and Tom Wesselmann exhibited.

Pop artists evolve in a post-war world where manufactured products, constant solicitation to surround themselves with desirable objects and aseptized dreams of a modern home prevail. They refer directly the consumer society, appropriating images from advertising, cinema, comics and television, diverting their smooth representations and vibrant colours. At the same time, the daily reality will also inspire European artists. On the other side of the Atlantic, as a reaction against the prevailing abstraction of the time and about to become academic, Pierre Restany founded New Realism in 1960 with a group of artists friends: Arman, Dufrêne, Hains, Klein, Raysse, Spoerri, Tinguely and Villeglé who were joined in 1961 and 1962 by Niki de Saint Phalle, Rotella, César, Deschamps and Christo. The movement develops a subversive strategy of appropriation of the urban, technological and industrial world. Like Pop Art artists, they seize the ordinary, the signs and failings of the consumer society. They translate its excesses by quantitative expression techniques or by the use of scrap objects from daily life.

**ROOM 5**

**NIKI DE SAINT PHALLE**

Catherine Marie-Agnès Fal de Saint Phalle was born on 29 October 1930 in Neuilly-sur-Seine. She was the second of five children born to Jeanne Jacqueline (née Harper) and André Marie Fal de Saint Phalle, originally from a family of French bankers. The Wall Street Crash had a number of consequences on the family business and led them to move to the United States. Niki de Saint Phalle was then educated in American schools, regularly spending summer in France. This dual sense of belonging is a symbol of the artistic links existing between France and the United States from the early 1960s. Without any formal artistic education other than her own instinct and a certainty that it was her destiny, Niki de Saint Phalle began painting her fantastic universe in a manner inherited from Matisse, Ensor, de Dubuffet and Pollock – created assemblages, collecting all sorts of small objects and debris. She perfected these ideas in her...
monochrome adventure

Yves Klein one of the most innovative practices and forms that undeniably make happening, and illustrates a diversity of conceptual, corporeal art, and of the viewer. His work goes through the limits that this sensitivity fully penetrates the world and captures it in his works so Yves Klein says that he soaks up the great co-create with nature or “living brushes”. immaterial and imagine performances, his name « IKB » (International Klein Blue). the ultramarine blue, to which he gave « monochrome adventure ». He took on definitely turned to art and started his first to become a judoka. In 1954, he Born in 1928 in Nice, Yves Klein was had spent almost a year in 1953. to the MAMAC in Nice, where she donated many important works A year before her death in 2002, she dedicated herself tirelessly over many years to the defence of cultural minorities and the integration of black populations into American society. A year before her death in 2002, she donated many important works to the MAMAC in Nice, where she had spent almost a year in 1953.

YVES KLEIN.

The monochrome adventure

Born in 1928 in Nice, Yves Klein was first to become a judoka. In 1954, he definitely turned to art and started his « monochrome adventure ». He took on the ultramarine blue, to which he gave his name « IKB » (International Klein Blue). Then he embarked on the quest for the immaterial and imagine performances, co-create with nature or “living brushes”. Yves Klein says that he soaks up the great world and captures it in his works so that this sensitivity fully penetrates the viewer. His work goes through the limits of conceptual, corporeal art, and of the happening, and illustrates a diversity of practices and forms that undeniably make Yves Klein one of the most innovative artists of his time. The second half of the XXth century has been deeply marked by Yves Klein’s creativity, through his monochromes, the pivotal event of the void, the use of the gold and of the pink among a trilogy of colors. He stamped his time on thanks also to his use of pure color soaked sponges, as well as the utilization of the fire as a paintbrush. Today his creativity still goes on influencing the new generations of artists. Yves Klein died in 1962, aged 34, and left behind him a major intense work, but also audacious and infinite This room has benefited from the support of the Archives Klein and of private collectors. it sensitively. A mural presents avatars of some of these works, giving the impression that the museum has just withdrawn them after a long period of exhibition, revealing, through a solarisation effect, a trace of their absence. Will you find out who these ghostly figures belong to? This investigation is also an opportunity to learn more about history of works and collections. This investigation, which opens up the history of the collections and the viewpoint of artists, choreographers, actors and musicians, traces a living and immaterial history of the museum of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

ROOM 9

STORY.ES OF THE EYE*

From Malaval’s “dormeuse” to Aïcha Hamu’s sleeping beauties, from Jean-Charles Blais’s sketched clothes to Liz Magor’s old-fashioned objects, from Katrin Ströbel’s hybrid figures to Klossowski’s living paintings or Sarmento’s portraits of an “eternal feminine”, the works gathered in this room intertwine histories of gazes, desires, eroticized or suggested bodies. It is this complexity of the gaze, of desire, of projections; of voyeurism or narcissism; of fantasy or repulsion that is discussed here with works by artists of different generations. Works from MAMAC collection: Jean-Charles Blais, Pierre Klossowski, Liz Magor, Robert Malaval, Julião Sarmento. Guest artists Aïcha Hamu and Katrin Ströbel.

*based on Histoire de l’Oeil, Georges Bataille, published in 1928 under the pseudonym of Lord Auch.
RENDEZ-VOUS

WORKSHOPS

The Môm'art on Wednesdays from 3p.m. to 4.30p.m.

Môm'art course, during school vacations

GUIDED TOUR

Guided tour for individuals every Saturday at 3p.m. in French and 4p.m. in English.

• Teachers all levels: Take advantage of training and meetings dedicated to teachers of the National Education in connection with the DAAC and the project managers.

• Educational visits: Every first Wednesday of the month at 11am. 6.10 € + entrance fee. Free for children under 13.

• The toolbox: Accompany your visits with a clue hunt, a booklet-game and an educational file

Contacts and booking: mediationmamac@ville-nice.fr

Full program, schedules and registration details on www.mamac-nice.org

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

• Le théâtre des objets de Daniel Spoerri
  Until March 27, 2022
  2nd floor

• Isa Melsheimer. Compost
  Until February 27 février, 2022
  Galerie contemporaine

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

  May 14 – October 2022
  2nd floor

• Rossella Biscotti. Trees on land
  End of March 2022 – August 28, 2022
  Galerie contemporaine