

Tom Wesselmann : Still Life # 56, 1967-1969, MAMAC. Photo Muriel Ansens - Ville de Nice, ©Adagp, Paris, 2020.



PLACE YVES KLEIN - NICE
MAMAC-NICE.ORG

COLLECTION GUIDE

2020



VILLE DE NICE

On two levels and nearly 2,500 square metres, discover a selection of more than 200 works from the collection. Every year MAMAC renews thoroughly the top floor rooms and proposes new experiences of its 3rd floor key rooms. The collection is on the move for the pleasure of discovery and new dialogues!

On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, MAMAC focuses on the emblematic movements that have made its collection famous: Pop Art & New Realism, and key figures representing the identity of the museum: Niki de Saint Phalle and Yves Klein. A more intimate collection will be highlighted for this event, through the works of Albert Chubac.

ROOMS 4 AND 8
NEW REALISM /
POP ART
The revolution of the 1960s



1-View of the New Realism/Pop Art room

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



2-View of the New Realism/Pop Art room

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

monumental reliefs and in her Action-Tirs, which, by their very nature convinced critic Pierre Restany of the absolute necessity to include them in the group of New Realists. Developing an approach that involved a sort of release, reflecting her need to expel a certain violence, Niki de Saint Phalle began working on sculptures in 1963. From bas-relief assemblages, she moved to 3D creations with her first "Nanas" in 1964. These sculptures, in bold colours and with generous curves, symbolised the modern woman, liberated from traditions. The "Nanas" are black, yellow and pink, they are multiracial to reflect the world. She dedicated herself tirelessly over many years to the defence of cultural



Niki de Saint Phalle : *Nana noire upside-down*, 1965-1966, gift of the artist, MAMAC. Photo Muriel Anssens - Ville de Nice, © Niki Charitable Art Foundation/Adagp, Paris, 2020.

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.

ROOM 6
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



3- View of Yves Klein room

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.

ROOM 7
PLAY ON WORDS /
PLAY ON SIGNS

An iconic work of the MAMAC, La Cambra or "Ben's Museum" gives an account of the place of writing in the work of this essential artist. His smooth, untrammelled, almost childish calligraphy takes us back to the winds of change and the art of attitude initiated in the late 1950s in Nice. Around this monumental work, other games with words, writings and languages are on display. On walls, paintings and sheets of paper, glyphs and alphabets are invented, anagrams, dance-poems, tags and crosswords are drawn. The exhibition combines works from the collection as well as loans and presentations by artists of different generations related to the museum's history. The relationship between the wall and writing is highlighted. The works engages the body of the viewer, reader, enunciator, or even actor. Some works have a very low profile and require visitors to pay attention, others shout out at them, take them to task, call on their imagination. The central question of deciphering them echoes that of understanding the work and the keys

ROOM 9



Jean Dupuy : *Le Sagittaire*, 2007, MAMAC, photo Muriel Anssens, Ville de Nice, © Adagp, Paris, 2020.

ALBERT CHUBAC

Albert Chubac was born in Geneva in 1925. Following his studies in Decorative Arts and Fine Art in Geneva, his work was influenced by some formative periods: his interest in Klee, Kandinsky, Miró, Matisse and Picasso; meeting Nicolas de Staël in 1950; and his travels in Italy, Spain, Greece, Egypt and Algeria. From his very first paintings, which were almost abstract, he used a palette of primary colours, applied in blocks. He then applied this technique to modifiable (transformable) wooden sculptures. The idea behind these sculptures was to enable the viewer to switch the elements around. In a later period, he explored the luminescent properties of coloured plexiglas. The donation of around a hundred of the artist's works to MAMAC in 2004 was the subject of an exhibition. The museum thus becoming a reference for the artist's work in France. Albert Chubac died in Tourrette-Levens in 2008.



4- View of Albert Chubac room

Légendes

1-View of the New Realism/Pop art room: Photo François Fernandez.

John Chamberlain: *Untitled*, 1964, MAMAC, © Adagp, Paris, 2020; Niki de Saint Phalle: *Dart Portrait session*, 1961, gift of the artist, MAMAC, © Niki Charitable Art Foundation c/o Adagp, Paris, 2020; Robert Indiana: *The Seventh american dream*, 1997-1998 - FNAC/CNAP, inv. FNAC: 980743 long term deposit at MAMAC. Photo Muriel Anssens - Ville de Nice, © Morgan Art Foundation/ARS, N.Y./Adagp, Paris, 2020.

2-View of the New Realism/Pop art room: Photo François Fernandez.

Andy Warhol: *Diamond Dust Shoes*, 1980, Guichard collection long term deposit at MAMAC, © The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Licensed by ADAGP, Paris 2020; Christo: *Store Front (Project)*, 1964, Lilja Art Fund Foundation, inv. D989.3.1 long term deposit at MAMAC, © Christo.

3-View of Yves Klein room: Photo François Fernandez.

Dry Pigments installation; Yves Klein: *Anthropométrie sans titre (ANT 77)*, 1961, private collection long term deposit at MAMAC; Triptyque de Krefeld, 1961, MAMAC; *Monochrome bleu sans titre (IKB Godet)*, 1958, private collection long term deposit at MAMAC, © Succession Yves Klein c/o Adagp, Paris, 2020.

4-View of Albert Chubac room : Photo François Fernandez.

Sans Titre, n.d., donation de l'artiste en 2004, MAMAC, © Adagp, Paris, 2020.



HOURS

- **Until October 31, 2020** : every days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Monday
- **From November 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021** : every day from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Monday

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Place Yves Klein- 06364 Nice cedex 4
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- **Individual ticket 10 €** : 24 hour access to all museums
- **7 days Ticket 20 €** : Access to all museums for 7 days
- **Group ticket (10 to 30 people 8 €)** : 24-hour access to all museums
- **Free admission & Nice Museums Pass** : conditions on the museum's website

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All the news of the museum on our Official Instagram page
https://www.instagram.com/mamacnice_officiel/

FIND OUR FILMED VISITS

of rooms 4, 5 and 6 by QR code in the rooms of the museum.



RENDEZVOUS JULY-AUGUST 2020

From July 7 - My summer at MAMAC!

- **Tuesday's workshops** : artists create workshops for children.
- **Wednesday's Môm'art workshops** : workshops and family tours with the museum's teams.
- **Thursday's MediTations** : yoga classes; art therapy workshops et musical workshops outdoors.
- **Friday's improvisations** : dance workshops for all levels, writing sessions and improvisation theatre.
- **Saturdays in family !** Workshops Môm'art in family, tours of the collections.
- But also... **conference/happening** with the artist S'To, a **cine-concert** under the stars, tales, afternoon discovery, creation classes, new performances and meetings.
- **« My Museum in KIT » and « MAMAC on the beach »** : Offered to families coming in self-guided visits tour, Our KITS are available for all those who wish to discover MAMAC in a new and playful way or to carry on the adventure from the beach. Distributed on request at the museum's ticket office and in the Nice Tourist Office.
- **Every day, from Tuesday to Saturday: visits of the collections at 3pm in French and 4pm in English!**

Find the full program on www.mamac-nice.org - Booking: mediationmamac@ville-nice.fr

HOLYDAYS MEETINGS

- **Guided tours.**
Individuals : every Saturday at 3 p.m. in French and 4 p.m. in English, without reservation / Groups: from Tuesday to Friday on reservation / Teaching materials: preparation for the visit with learning documents that can be downloaded from the "Public" section of the website.
- **Wednesday's and Saturday's Môm'Art :**
Môm'Art with our pedagogical boxes every first Wednesday of the month at 11.00 am / Teens Môm'art on Wednesdays from 15.00 pm to 16.30 pm / Môm'art in family on Saturdays from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm

Contact and booking: mediationmamac@ville-nice.fr
Full programme, schedule and registration details on www.mamac-nice.org

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

- **URSULA BIEMMAN SAVOIR INDIGÈNES_FICTIONS COSMOLOGIQUES**
In the context of Manifesta 13 Marseille's Parallèles du Sud, European traveling Biennale Contemporary Gallery - From August 29
- **SHE-BAM POW POP WIZZ ! LES AMAZONES DU POP (1961-1973)**
An exhibition-event on the occasion of MAMAC's 30th anniversary
2nd floor of the museum October 3, 2020 - March 28, 2021
Discover nearly 200 unique works of Pop Art