

Niki de Saint Phalle, *My Men*, 1994. *Dear Paul/Telephone*, 1994/ *Nana noire, upside down*, 1965–1966/ *Black is different*, 1994. © Niki Charitable Art Foundation – Adagp, Paris, 2023 – Photo François Fernandez.

MAMAC

PLACE YVES KLEIN - NICE
MAMAC-NICE.ORG

COLLECTION GUIDE 2023

MUSÉES DE NICE

#ILoveNICE

VILLE DE NICE

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 year, 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. 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. This year, MAMAC offers up a fresh exhibition on the top floor with a room dedicated to the artist Marcel Alocco. The last part of this section evokes the theme of References to the Masters of the History of Art by contemporary artists, through the works included in the collection.

> NEW REALISM / POP ART

The 1960s revolution

Second and third stage



—

Room 4 view : New Realism / Pop Art of MAMAC, Nice © Photo : rights reserved

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.

> NIKI DE SAINT PHALLE

Revolt in action

Second stage



—

Niki de Saint Phalle, *La mariée sous l'arbre*, 1963-1964,
© Niki Charitable Art Foundation – Adagp, Paris, 2023 – Photo François Fernandez

« Me, I would show it. I would show everything. My heart, my emotions. Green-red-yellow-blue-purple. Hate-love-laughter-fear-tenderness." Niki de Saint Phalle »

Niki de Saint Phalle

Catherine-Marie-Agnès Fal de Saint Phalle, known as Niki de Saint Phalle, was born in Neuilly sur Seine in 1930. Developing her approach as an outlet, translated in her need to expel a certain violence – for her, art is a form of therapy. Niki de Saint Phalle fired her first rifle to create a work of art in 1961. Thanks to "Tirs", she was finally recognised as an artist and gained a reputation in France, despite scathing criticism. After her first shooting sessions, the nouveaux réalistes invited her to join the group, of which she would be the only woman. When Niki broke away from "Tirs" in 1963, she created sculptures that, at times, appeared mortifying, as in her series representing brides, hearts or even women giving birth. From 1965, Niki began to develop the "Nanas" series – sculptures in vibrant colours with generous bodies symbolising the modern woman, freed from tradition. The artist dedicated a significant portion of her life to monumental projects, with her sculptures transforming into real architectures. Without a doubt, it is Jardin des Tarots, created in Tuscany from 1978 onwards, that represents the greatest adventure of her life. In 2002, one year before her death, she made an exceptional donation to the Nice MAMAC of nearly 200 works.

> YVES KLEIN

The Monochrome Adventure

Second stage



—

View of the Yves Klein room, MAMAC, Nice © Yves Klein Succession - Adagp, Paris, 2023 - Photo : droits réservés.

« The painting is only the witness, the sensitive sheet that saw what happened ... My paintings represent poetic events. My paintings are the ashes of my art."

Yves Klein

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 diverstity 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 apaintbrush. 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.

> MARCEL ALOCCO

The Painting in Fragments

Third step

Born in 1937 in Nice, where he lives and works, Marcel Alocco has been looking for a different way to paint since 1965. From 1973, the artist began creating the " Fragments of Patchwork Painting ".
The tissue is first stamped with iconic motifs before being torn into pieces and recomposed at random by sewing. Alocco appeals to the common memory, testing the visual significance of representations.

> QUOTATIONS

Third step



—

Laurence Aëgerter, *R.F. 1937-1-0803041149 (Ecole de Fontainebleau)*, 2008 © Adagp, Paris, 2023 - Photo : Muriel Anssens

« If there was only one truth, we could not make 100 paintings on the same theme.»

Pablo Picasso

This year, the museum brings together paintings, photographs, collages and drawings making reference to works from the history of art. These references are sometimes parody and tinted with humour. Meanwhile, some are intended to offer an almost magical appropriation of major works, anchored in our collective imaginary. Others still recreate an emotion, perhaps from youth, or reveal the influence of the great figures of the history of art on the practice of the artists gathered here, sketching filiations across generations and centuries. Dive into a story of companionship, references and reinventions.



—

Room 8 view: New Realism / Pop Art © Photo : rights reserved

> Events

> THE EUROPEAN NIGHT OF MUSEUMS

Saturday 13 May

From 7pm to midnight

Free entry during the "LA CLASSE, L'ŒUVRE !" event: discover the works of museums, guided by students. With music students from the Valbonne CIV and the Contes secondary school.
Screening of Alain Amiel's film on the artist Marcel Alocco.
The evening will also be punctuated by dance, theatre and circus!

> It's summer !

Shows, storytelling tours, workshops with artists.

Summer programme to follow on: mamac.org

> The exhibitions in 2023

« devenir fleurs »
Until 30 April, first step

« Irene Kopelman. Marine Models. Drawing regeneration »
Until 2nd April, contemporary gallery

"Caroline Trucco. Oui, mais des mots étendards"
ÀFrom 29 April, contemporary gallery

« Thu Van Tran »
From 10 June, first step

> Workshops and tours



—
© MAMAC, 2023

> Les Môm'Art for children.
Wednesdays from 3pm to 4:30pm.
8,50€ per participant and per session.
Minimum of 2 participants. From age 6.

> Les Môm'Art for families.
Saturdays from 11am to 12:30pm.
Come and have fun with family in creative four-handed workshops.
8,50€ per participant and per session.
Minimum of 2 participants. From age 5.

> Tours for individuals:
Saturdays at 3pm in French and at 4pm in English.
Free for children under 13. 6,20€ tour + Price of admission. Duration: 1 hour. No booking required.

> The toolbox:
To accompany tours with a treasure hunt, games booklet and teaching file. *Upon request and reservation. Free. Downloadable from the website under Tours & Workshops / Toolbox.*

> S'aMusée during the holidays.
Môm'Art course for children from 11 to 13 July 2023, 2pm to 4pm.
8,50€ per participant and per session.
Minimum of 2 participants. From age 6.

All information on mamac.org

MAMAC

HOURS

Every day except on Monday **FROM 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M. FROM MAY 2ND TO OCTOBER 31ST**
and FROM 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. FROM NOVEMBER 1ST TO APRIL 30TH

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

MAMAC – Place Yves Klein- 06364 Nice cedex 4 –
+33 (0)4 97 13 42 01
www.mamac-nice.org

Individual ticket 10 €
Group ticket (10 people) 8 € per person

Nice Museum Pass
Access to all municipal museums for 3 days

15 € per person

10 € per person for a group from 10 people

FOLLOW US

All the latest museum news on our Instagram page:
www.instagram.com/mamacnice_officiel/

YouTube

Subscribe to the MAMAC's YouTube account!
Audio contents, videos, podcasts, "Tell me a work", stories, you will know more about the museum!