



FONDATION
FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER

Press release
May 2022

Our Islands

30 April
— 18 September 2022

Hoda Afshar • Cécile Beau • Benoît Billotte • Stéphane Clor • Olivier Crouzel • Pauline Delwaulle
Gilles Desplanques • Pierre Fraenkel • Charles Fréger • François Génot • Axel Gouala • Sébastien Gouju
Rodney Graham • Yohanne Lamoulère • Philippe Lepeut • Aurélien Mauplot • Abraham Poincheval
Eleonore Saintagnan • Stéphane Thidet • Brankica Zilovic

Fondation François Schneider

27 rue de la Première Armée – 68700 Wattwiller | Open from Wednesday to Sunday from 11 am. to 6 pm. | fondationfrancoisschneider.org

© Pauline Delwaulle - *Haïkus cartographiques* - 2019

Our Islands

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In the beginning was the wind... then the shipwreck... then the sand... then the jungle... then solitude... and maybe paradise.

In a closed and dark space, a growing sound, a repetitive, enveloping swell, catches us and takes us to new shores. Then a curious privateer appears in the neighbouring work, inviting us to explore a territory where a strange rain hut, masks and other objects are found. He loses us in a jungle of leather or plastic punctuated by sweet wahines with hypnotic swaying. The itinerary continues on more hostile islands. We come across prisoners off the Australian coast, a zany individual stranded on a concrete island, young women isolated in Brittany or a family confined to an arm of the Rhône. Inked, woven, shiny, bluish cartographies lead us towards distant dreams when a cloud of sonorous shells opens towards joyful horizons.

Composed as a journey and born in the spring of 2020, during a global experience of confinement, where isolation and solitude were prevalent, "Our islands" is also the continuation of "The Cloud Atlas"*, the exploration of the multi-components of water forming visual, natural and imaginary landscapes that inhabit everyone.

Piece of land surrounded by water, islands of treasures, forgotten, abandoned, mysterious, fantasized, the subject has an inexhaustible narrative potential and unfolds as much in literature as in the visual arts. In order to reach Ithaca, Ulysses travels through different archipelagos for many years, Robinson Crusoe founds one of the major myths of the explorer and of a certain vision of elsewhere, Marivaux sets his scene in an island landscape for a social utopia.

Between tragedy and burlesque, documentary and fiction, 20 artists are invited to take part in this journey to the island country.

"Our islands" is a subjective vision of insularity and its various metaphors; the artists themselves are not or not very insular, but they give us their different visions of shipwreck, robinsonnade, exoticism, confinement and utopias.

Les artistes exposés

Hoda Afshar, Cécile Beau, Benoît Billotte, Stéphane Clor, Olivier Crouzel, Pauline Delwaulle, Gilles Desplanques, Pierre Fraenkel, Charles Fréger, François Génot, Axel Gouala, Sébastien Gouju, Rodney Graham, Yohanne Lamoulère, Philippe Lepeut, Aurélien Mauplot, Abraham Poincheval, Eleonore Saintagnan, Stéphane Thidet and Brankica Zilovic.

*"The Cloud Atlas", an exhibition of 25 artists in 2018 at the François Schneider Foundation.

Cover

Pauline Delwaulle, *Haïkus cartographiques* (extract), 2019.
Courtesy of the artist © Pauline Delwaulle



Philippe Lepeut
C'EST DU VENT, 2015
 Sound installation for 5 loudspeakers, 2 facing benches and a light bulb, variable dimension
 Courtesy of the artist
 Photo credit : Marynet Jeannerod



Rodney Graham
Vexation Island, 1997
 FNAC 980836
 Centre national des arts plastiques
 © Rodney Graham / Cnap / Photo
 credit: courtesy Lisson Gallery



Stéphane Thidet
Untitled (Le Refuge), 2007

Les Abattoirs Musée - Frac Occitanie Toulouse collection
 © Adagp, Paris, 2022; photo credit: Steeve Constanty

Here's neither bush nor shrub, to bear off any weather at all, and another storm brewing; I hear it sing i' the wind: yond same black cloud, yond huge one, looks like a foul bombard that would shed his liquor. If it should thunder as it did before, I know not where to hide my head: yond same cloud cannot choose but fall by pailfuls. What have we here? A man or a fish? Dead or alive? (...) this is no fish, but an islander, that hath lately suffered by a thunderbolt. (Thunder) Alas, the storm is come again! my best way is to creep under his gaberdine; there is no other shelter hereabouts: misery acquaints a man with strange bed-fellows. I will here shroud till the dregs of the storm be past.

William Shakespeare, *The tempest*, Act II, scene 2.



Sébastien Gouju
Fougère, 2019
 Leather, painted wood and steel, 102 × 157 Ø 41 cm.
 N° Inv. SG19004
 Courtesy of Semiose, Paris
 Photo credit : Steeve Constanty



Charles Fréger,
Blue Heaven, 2012,
 Installation of 6 videos.
 Courtesy of the artist © Charles Fréger

«The sun rose higher. Blue waves, green waves swept a quick fan over the beach, circling the spike of sea-holly and leaving shallow pools of light here and there on the sand. A faint black rim was left behind them. The rocks which had been misty and soft hardened and were marked with red clefts.

Sharp stripes of shadow lay on the grass, and the dew dancing on the tips of the flowers and leaves made the garden like a mosaic of single sparks not yet formed into one whole. The birds, whose breasts were specked canary and rose, now sang a strain or two together, wildly, like skaters rollicking arm-in-arm, and were suddenly silent, breaking asunder.»

Virginia Woolf, *The waves*, 1931.



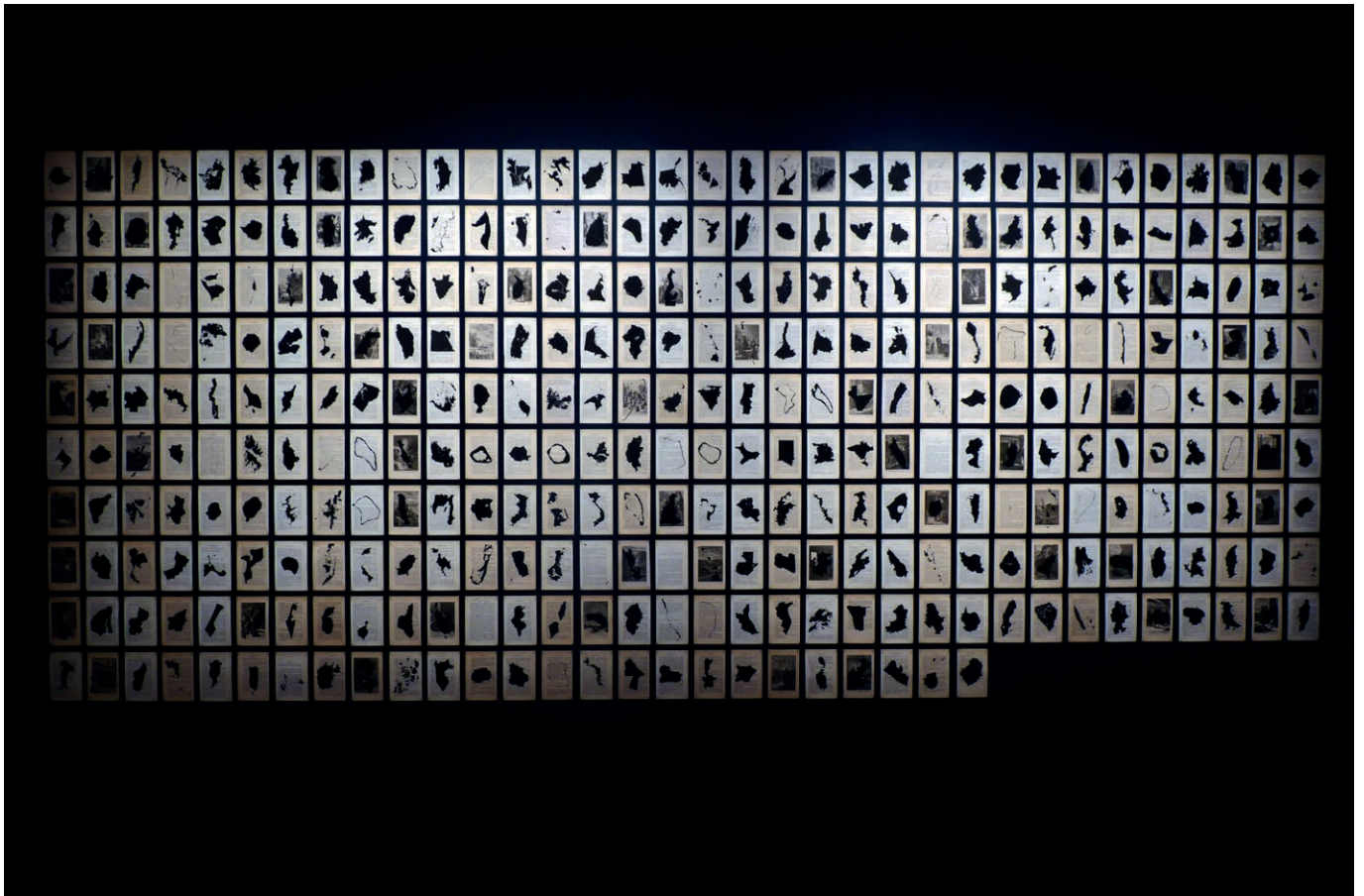
Cécile Beau
Isle, 2014,
Laminated print on dibond
Series of seven photographs, 60 x 45 cm
Courtesy of the artist © Cécile Beau.



Hoda Afshar
Remain, 2018
 Two-channel digital video, colour, sound, 23 min. 29
 Courtesy of the artist and of the Milani Gallery
 © Hoda Afshar, Milani Gallery.



Yohanne Lamoulère
L'île (extract), 2020
 Photographies, 5×(60×60),
 13×(40×40), 13×(30×30) cm
 Courtesy of the artist © Yohanne
 Lamoulère, Tendance Floue.



Aurélien Mauplot,
Les Possessions, 2014,
 Wall installation, digital prints on book pages,
 variable dimensions, approx. 500 x 200 cm
 Courtesy of the artist © Aurélien Mauplot



Benoît Billotte
Isulae (detail), 2015
 5 silk-screen prints on survival blanket, 160 x 210 cm
 Courtesy of the artist - production centre d'art contemporain
 La Villa du Parc, Annemasse
 Photo credit © Aurélien Mole



Stéphane Clor
Imaginary Soundscape (detail), 2016
Sound installation, mixed media, motors,
speakers, programming, field recordings
Courtesy of the artist © Photo credit : Stéphane Clor

About the François Schneider Foundation

Between forest and mountain in a small Alsatian village in eastern France, on the border with Germany and Switzerland, the François Schneider Foundation is housed in a former bottling plant transformed into an art centre where the spaces play on transparency and light.

A philanthropic foundation created in 2000 and recognised as a public utility in 2005, the François Schneider Foundation has a dual commitment to education and culture. It provides high school students with access to higher education through scholarships and supports contemporary artists in the development of their careers.

Since 2011, the Talents Contemporains competition rewards each year several artists for works or projects on the theme of water. Over the years, a unique art collection has been built up, reflecting the diversity of artistic practices in the 21st century. Today, nearly 80 works form a singular ensemble that runs counter to certain institutional trends, exhibited both in the art centre and circulating in different regions.

The François Schneider Foundation conceives three exhibitions per year, alternating between the Talents Contemporains exhibitions, collaborations with major cultural institutions and giving carte blanche to contemporary artists. The exhibitions question the theme of water and explore questions of environment and geography, imagination and travel, and more social commitments. Clouds, melting ice, water and the digital, water and comics are the various subjects of the latest projects.

In addition to these exhibitions, conferences, round tables, concerts of classical or contemporary music and live performances are held, offering complementary visions to the visual works and the theme of water. Numerous workshops and different forms of mediation are offered to a varied public. (family, school, hospital, socio-educational environment, association...). Artists' residencies complete this support for creation. A vast garden of sculptures and fountains also offers a delightful walk.

Nature, art and education converse happily and meet along the water. The François Schneider Foundation is a place of escape, reflection and sharing.



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