

The Francès Foundation celebrates its 15th anniversary

- A collection of 800 works around the theme of Man and his excesses
- A foundation that promotes access to contemporary art outside the expected circuits
- A reflective space engaged in contemporary debates
- An anniversary program combining exhibitions, loans and residencies



Adrian GHENIE, *Hunger*, 2008, oil on canvas © Collection Francès

In the heart of the historic district of Senlis, the Fondation Francès has been showcasing the Francès collection of contemporary art since its creation in 2009. In the setting of an old Senlis house, the Fondation Francès welcomes art lovers and curious minds free of charge, and shares with them its sensitivity to contemporary creation.

Created by Estelle and Hervé Francès, the eponymous foundation is conceived as a laboratory for reflection around a collection of nearly 800 international contemporary works, open to all artistic expressions. Built up as the couple's discoveries unfolded, the collection subsequently revealed a common thread - "Man and his excesses" - and became a source of inspiration and asserted convictions.

Between resistance and generosity, the foundation's primary intention is to promote access to contemporary art, particularly in a region that has long been deprived of it.

Over the past 15 years, it has developed a rich and varied cultural program, offering free in-situ and off-site exhibitions, guided tours, meetings and introductions to art history, as well as an educational program based around the works developed by the Fabrique de l'Esprit, a "club pour l'Unesco" accredited association. At the same time, it carries out in-depth research into the works and the themes they address, data that is materialized and disseminated via an online catalog, visible on its website, and exhibition catalogs. It also holds and distributes a collection of 1,500 books on art, in its documentation center, accessible by reservation.

As an extension of its mission to disseminate and share art, the foundation forges partnerships with public and private institutions in France and abroad, such as the Musée d'Art et d'Archéologie de Senlis, the Museu de Arte Contemporânea/CCB in Lisbon, the Aperture Foundation in New York, and MO.CO MontPELLIER.

After 29 dialogue exhibitions initiated at Senlis, the 30th opened to the public in Clichy on January 12, 2023, in an industrial setting, while maintaining the "Hors d'œuvre" exhibition cycle at Senlis, offering an in-depth focus on a selection of works from the collection.

Among the emblematic artists in the collection :

Marina Abramović
Roy Adzak
Diane Arbus
Kader Attia
Richard Avedon
Alin Bozbiçiu
Mircea Cantor
Jake & Dinos Chapman
Michael Ray Charles
Tracey Emin

Nina Childress
G rard Gasiorowski
Sergey Kononov
Youcef Korichi
Eric Manigaud
Sofie Muller
Nazanin Pouyandeh
Jean Rustin
Andres Serrano
Dash Snow

A mixed and international collection

- **322 artists**
Including 79 women; between 25% and 30% women artists since 2010

Nationalities :
Europe 37% - France 21%
USA 18% - North and South America 5%
Asia 11% - Africa 6% - Oceania 2%

- **800 art works**
Including photography and video 30%, painting 25%, mixed technique 14%, drawing 8%, sculpture 15%, installation 8%

- **Provenance of acquisitions**
Galleries 75%, secondary market 21%, artists 4%

The acquisition process is based on a simple principle: it's a two-way decision. If Estelle and Herv  Franc s disagree, no purchase. No acquisitions commission, no advisors. Just the desire to build a collection together. A pleasure shared for over 20 years.

In 2019, a sale of photographs from the collection will be organized at the invitation of Sotheby's Paris. These sales have enabled the Foundation to continue its work.

2024 PROGRAMMING

The program for the anniversary year is structured around two highlights, based on the collection. A double collective exhibition on the central theme of man's excesses will take place in Clichy, with a first chapter dedicated to individual excesses and a second to collective excesses. This second chapter will be accompanied by the reactivation of Kader Attia's emblematic installation, *Ghost*, at the Espace Saint-Pierre in Senlis. Residencies and loans to international institutions will punctuate the year.

15th anniversary exhibition

Fondation Francès, Clichy

21 rue Georges Boisseau, 92110 Clichy

- *XXH et moi*, March 29 to June 30, 2024
- *XXH et nous*, September 20 to December 20, 2024

The exhibitions will be open free of charge from Thursday to Saturday, with registration required, to enable systematic mediation to accompany the public.

Ghost, Kader Attia

Fondation Francès et Espace Saint-Pierre, Senlis

Place Saint-Pierre, 60300 Senlis

- Exhibition from October 8 to October 28, 2024

Artistic residencies and exhibition-events

Throughout the year

Loans of works to international institutions and historical partners

Including the MO.CO. in Montpellier, the Museu de Arte Contemporânea in Lisbon, Portugal, Artipelag in Gustavsberg, Sweden, and the Kunsthall Rotterdam.



Annie LEIBOVITZ, *John Lennon et Yoko One*, New York 1980, 1980, platinum printing © Collection Francès

15th anniversary exhibition, Fondation Francès, Clichy

XXH et moi, March 29 to June 30, 2024

XXH et nous, September 20 to December 20, 2024

At a time when societies are continually confronted with the challenges of excess, whether in terms of consumption, waste production, resource exploitation or extreme behavior, this exhibition explores, through the Francès collection, how art addresses and critiques these issues. Around the central theme of "man's excesses", the aim is to provoke a twofold reflection: firstly on the scale of the individual, then on that of collective dynamics. The works in the Francès collection have the critical and educational potential to engage the public in this dialogue. This two-stage division offers a two-level reading of the notion of excess, which generates both personal and societal impacts.

The first stage will focus on individual excesses. The scenography of this section will be intimate and introspective. The works selected will highlight disarray, abandonment, the quest for the absolute, fracas, decay, the excess of passions... so many extreme feelings that will question our own excesses.

The second part of the exhibition focuses on collective excess. The works will freeze our gaze and question our consciences about group excesses, such as over-consumption, mass movements, authoritarianism, manipulation, tragedies engendered by unreasoning politics or faith... The intention of this second exhibition is no secret: it aims to lead us to question our personal part in the construction and excesses of these phenomena.

Through guided tours, educational workshops and lectures, the Foundation will offer the opportunity to deepen the dialogue between the works and the viewers. Scientific content will also be published, and mediation will be systematically offered. All these analyses, reflections and cross-views will extend the experience beyond the Foundation's premises.

This double exhibition, entitled *XXH et moi*, then *XXH et nous*, will raise awareness, inform and inspire the public, while confirming the Fondation Francès' committed role in contemporary debates.



Nazanin Pouyandeh, *SHUNGA #2*, oil painting, 2023 © Collection Francès

Save the date – *Ghost*, Kader Attia, Espace Saint-Pierre, Senlis

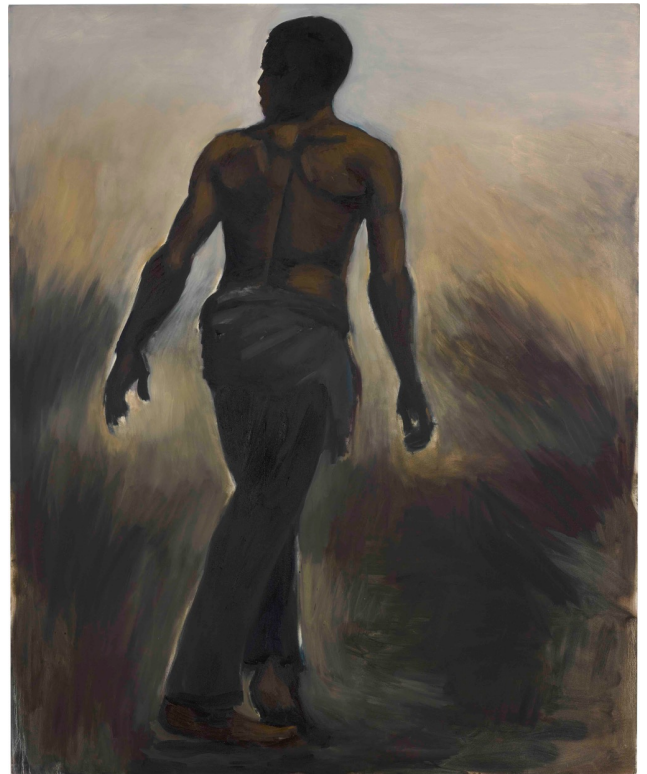
October 8 to October 28, 2024

The Fondation Francès is honored to welcome international artist Kader Attia with his famous *Ghost* installation, in Senlis, in the Espace Saint-Pierre.

Kader Attia is an emblematic artist in the Francès collection. His commitment to and critical research into history, memory, identity and reparation provide a forum for dialogue, questioning and sharing that is dear to the foundation. So, five years after his solo show *Mémoire de l'Oubli* in Senlis, the artist has been invited to reactivate his emblematic work, *Ghost*, a stone's throw from the foundation, in the heart of a desecrated former church.

First created in 2007, *Ghost* consists of several rows of kneeling figures, made entirely from aluminum sheet and scaled to human size. These female silhouettes are arranged to evoke the layout of Muslim worshippers at prayer. However, the figures are hollow, shaped by absence and air, denoting a void that is both material and symbolic. Seen from the back, the ensemble evokes an almost spiritual presence, while from the front, the effect is one of poignant absence, a striking contrast between materiality and immateriality, the individual and the collective.

In the hollow of these empty shells, Kader Attia engages a spiritual and philosophical reflection on the notion of emptiness, the fragility of being and the vulnerability of our condition. Its reactivation in the current context will open a meditation on the notion of peace, more essential than ever, a notion that will be explored more fully at the heart of the cultural and educational program developed by the Fabrique de l'Esprit®.



Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, *A QUARTER*, huile sur toile, 2013 © Collection Francès

Échanges internationaux

Sharing the work, Foundation loans 15 years, 15 partner institutions

Convinced that art cannot be confiscated, the Foundation's ambition is to share the works it holds with as many people as possible, actively working to democratize contemporary art. Since its creation in 2009, it has developed an active policy of loans to public and private institutions, alongside its cultural programming and in situ exhibitions.

For its fifteenth anniversary, the Fondation Francès wishes to promote wider access to its collection by renewing this loan dynamic with a selection of institutions, fifteen partners both historic and new, whose projects are in close dialogue with the commitments and convictions it defends.

At the start of 2024, some fifty works from the collection are already on loan to French and foreign institutions such as the Musée d'art et d'archéologie de Senlis, the MO.CO. in Montpellier, the Museu de Arte Contemporânea in Lisbon, Portugal, Artipelag in Gustavsberg, Sweden, and the Kunsthal Rotterdam.

Artistic residencies and exhibition-events

In February and March 2024, the Fondation Francès presents two exhibition-events, in Senlis and Clichy, focusing on the work of three contemporary artists from Papua New Guinea: Raymond Kowspi Marek and his sons, Agatoak Ronny Kowspi and Robin Chiphowka Kowspi.

Linked to the two sons' international artistic residency at the Cité internationale des arts in Paris, supported by the Française association for contemporary work*, these exhibitions are conceived as spaces for research and experimentation, punctuated by times of encounter and exchange with artists from the Francès collection and the Française association. A rich program, complemented by studio visits, workshops and conversations in partner public and private institutions.

In a second phase, the Française association will host two other artists in international residencies in Paris: Sol Miraglia from April to July 2024 and Robin van Leijssen from July to October 2024.

*The association *Française pour l'œuvre contemporaine*, founded by Estelle Francès in 2015, supports artists in their market to break their isolation.



Agatoak Ronny Kowspi, *sans titre*, peinture sur papier, 2016 © Collection Francès
